INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE BY AND FOR ACTIVE RADIOAMATEURS

Radiosporting

October/November 1987 | 8711 | No. 28 | $2.00

Joe Rudi, NK7U, Coach of Oakland Athletics with Orest (Left) and Adrian of Radiosporting at the New York Yankees stadium.

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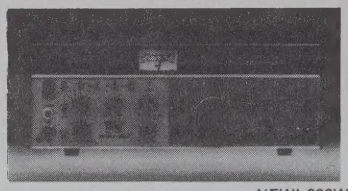

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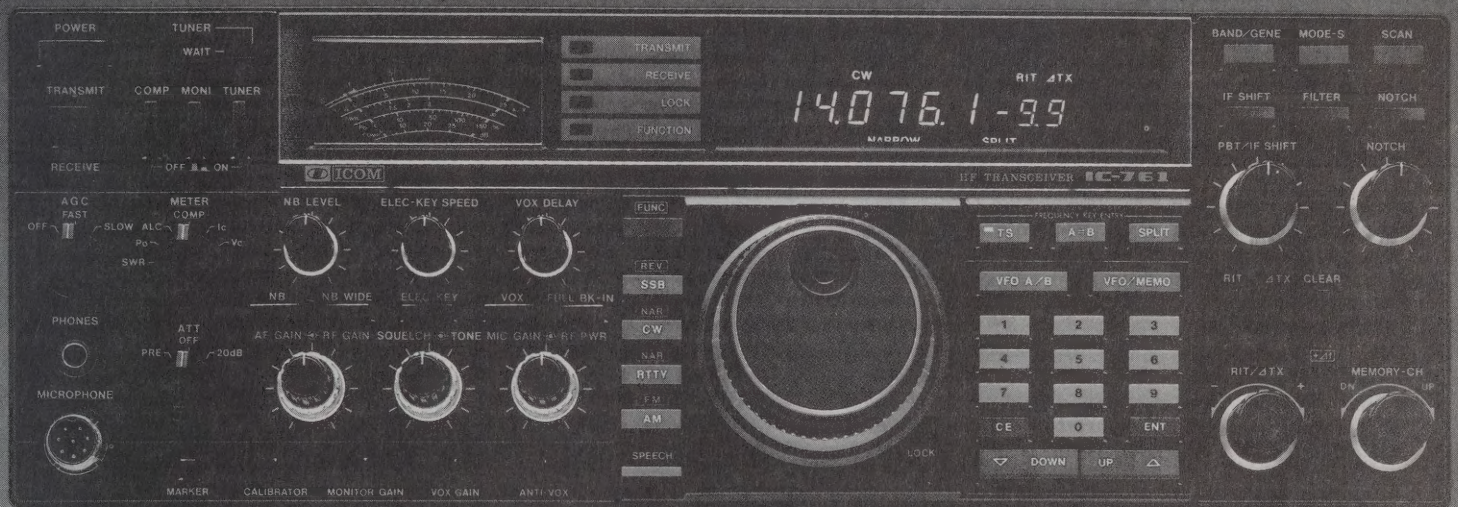

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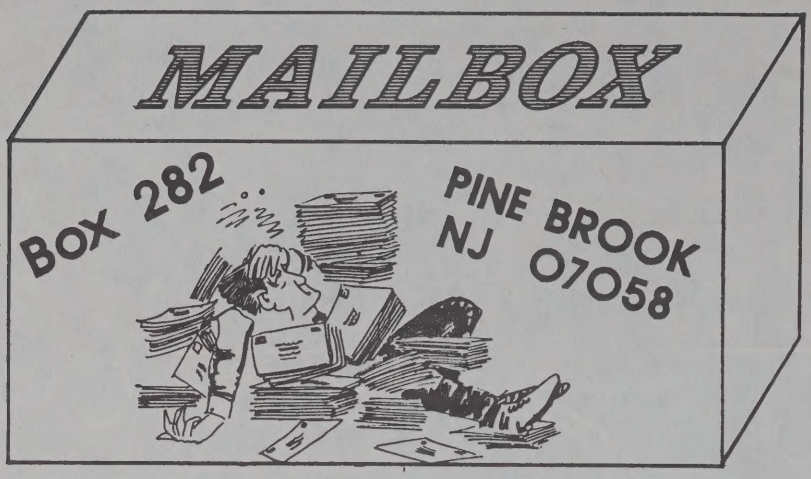

Dear Yuri,

Received my Radiosporting several weeks ago and as usual read it from cover to cover within a few days. The articles were good as usual, however, your editorial on the NCJ + ARRL raised my fervor which caused me to write.

First, the NCJ was not in trouble and about to fold. The NCJ has always been an informal journal where anyone could write in to share ideas, thoughts and articles. The editor/publisher has always been a volunteer position, and since its creation, has passed hands about a half dozen times. Last year, the current editor/publisher had had it long enough and requested new volunteers. In response, I believe there were at least four qualified volunteers including the ARRL. I too, like you, have questions on the arrangement that was made between the NCJ and ARRL. But from what I have seen so far, I am willing to trust the judgement of those involved.

Secondly, intentionally or not, you have alienated a group of contesters and DXers by your past comments and actions regarding the California QSO Party. Many of us here in W6 land are heavily involved in the CQP and put a lot of effort to make it the single largest state QSO party. Apparently you hadn't turned on your receiver during the first weekend of October!

Concerning those negative comments about the Radiosporting magazine, I agree with you that if you can't say anything good about something, then don't say anything at all. However, you are now in the big leagues and should be able to take a certain amount of flak or critique. After all, those comments represent someone's opinion even though they maybe stated rather harshly.

In closing, I wish to say that I do enjoy your magazine for its variety, and especially for the contributors from Europe and elsewhere. You can't find those in any other US publication. Lets bury past feuds and start anew. Let Radiosporting and NCJ be the voices of all DXers and contesters. Each publication has its place.

Ray Benny, N6VR

Dear Ray,

In Sept./Oct. issue of NCJ K5ZD wrote: "The NCJ currently finds itself in crisis. Very simply, we have a serious cash flow problem. The money in the bank will cover the cost of this issue with a small amount left over."... "Over the past two years, the NCJ subscriber base has dropped by almost 25 percent." After this appeared in NCJ I spoke to Randy on the phone, impression I got that they were in trouble and looking for solution or possibly to fold the NCJ. I offered my help, guaranteing freedom of editorialship and publishing anything I get via NCJ.

In May/June 87 issue Randy wrote: "This all began many months ago when an HQ staffer read that the NCJ was looking for a new publisher. Tom Frenaye, K1KI, made the initial overtures and introductions. I had several meetings in Newington to discuss the possibilities of making NCJ a League publication. .. The final approval was wrestled from Dave Sumner on Friday morning at Dayton."

K5ZD had it long enough... and still has it. I hope that he will be more responsible in reporting and give credit where it's due. I am in the same league as I was before, just a bit more tired. I can take critique, but I could also take appropriate amount of recognition. The rest is in my letter to K5ZD:

Dear Randy, K5ZD

A number of recent events have prompted me to react and respond: some comments which were published in NCJ in the past, and letters received from N6VR and N6ADI as a response to my Sept. Radiotorial in RADIOSPORTING. I was accused of "overzealous attacks on the NCJ", "lashing back because I didn't get the NCJ" (N6ADI), and interference with "CQP California QSO Party."

My comments simply stated the fact that NCJ joined the ARRL; that we offered to join forces with NCJ, which would have benefited all contesters. I also reacted to some comments made in NCJ in refrence to "Yuri's contests" etc. I have never "attacked" NCJ, we published material when received from NCJ. NCJ never mentioned IRSA or RADIOSPORTING or our contests in any way, except in derogatory sense.

Therefore, I think your readers deserve some explanation:

The California QSO Party conflict has been resolved a year ago. Californians have their old weekend back and continue to offer wine as a prize. You probably know better than I do how legal this is.

From your remarks in NCJ it is obvious that NCJ, after becoming a League publication, is aiming to compete with RADIOSPORTING. Do we need this type of competition or rather joining the forces so the work can be distributed and the quality improved? I believe the second would have been better. Nearly everyone I talked to agrees, that most contesters, as you have mentioned in NCJ too, have "reservations regarding the conflict which might arise between the free spirited, sometimes risky, history of the NCJ and the conservative, responsible, bureaucracy of the ARRL." I am sorry you made this choice, but this is where it ends. I welcome competition; it has always fuelled me. I never stopped or gave up until I reached my goals. My contest and professional results are proof of that. Contesters and active hams should benefit from this competition. We in RADIOSPORTING intend to provide the best in amateur radio DXing and contesting. The readers will be the ultimate judges.

You claimed that NCJ is "in its fifteenth year of bringing out the best in the world of amateur radio contesting." I would question that claim. Even you admitted in one of your editorials that "The NCJ does not and can not compete with QST, CQ, or even RADIOSPORTING." Yet you kept printing that statement on the back of NCJ. It is funny to see you comparing RADIOSPORTING with other "professional" publications, because you know well that RADIOSPORTING is also a labor of love and has been put together by myself with help of my XYL and contributions of many dedicated writers. I have spend a considerable amount of my own money and resources to get the publication off the ground. I am proud of it, but I thought that it would be welcomed by the contesting and DXing community and treated as it deserves to be treated. Instead, you have never even reported that there is IRSA, RADIOSPORTING, or our contest rules or results. You had CAN-AM and WRC rules and results available, but you never mentioned them except as "Oh well. Take time out of the CAN-AM to make an effort in the NA Sprint." or: "Beware of imitations!!! The NCJ is the only publication devoted exclusively to Amateur Radio Contesting."

K8CC wrote in his editorial: "VE3BMV figured that the world needed another DX contest, so he decided to sponsor one during the optimum time of the year - early October, just a few weeks before the CQ WW SSB and disregarding the Cal QSO Party.... It's hard to question the motives of these people - they undoubtedly mean well, but unfortunately are out of the contest mainstream." ...."What do you think?... What I want you to do is take the time to consider the point, then write to RADIOSPORTING and 73 Magazine to express your support (or lack of thereof) for the IRSA World Radio Championship and the 73 Magazine National Championships. This is important and necessary, because neither of these organizations seem to have much rapport with the contest community - it is up to us to provide them with necessary feedback."

Thanks Dave!!

This is so far the biggest insult to my contesting and ham radio achievements I have ever received. The government in OK-land awarded me the title of "Master of Sport" for my extraordinary ham radio contesting achievements. (I was the youngest ham to ever achieve that honorary title which was shared by Olympic

winners like Emil Zatopek and others). I hold just about all Canadian monoband records in CQ WW and WPX contests. I am a 16 times world high and world record holder. With these achievements K8CC considers that I am "out of the contest mainstream!" I demand his public apology in NCJ for his unfounded statements!!!

As far as the WRC contest and comments against it go, none was received. To the contrary, many experienced contesters praise it and say that finally we have a contest that is fair to everybody on the globe. It is not just VE3BMV's contest, (I am flattered by the credit) but it belongs to the IRSA directors, W3FG who administers it and all those who participate. I laid the foundation stone, but the rules were derived after a lot of thought and extensive discussions with many prominent contesters. Time will tell if it is "just another contest."

We were trying to find the best time for the contest for a long time. Unfortunately, collision is imminent for any new contest since there is a contest on just about every weekend. We hope to arrive at a solution and anchor this contest on the weekend it deserves.

In the meantime, K8CC should check his own NCJ contest closet. There appears to be a collision between the CAN-AM (co-sponsored by the CRRL) and NCJ's North American Sprint. The phone portion of NCJ Sprint collides with the CAN-AM phone portion. CAN-AM was here before the NCJ sprint, (it was known as the VE/W contest and cosponsored by the ARRL). NCJ "drifted" into the CAN-AM weekends. For two years the CAN-AM was combined into one weekend, but due to popular demand it was changed back to the original two weekends. Since the Sprint is now advertised in the contest calendars, I, as the CAN-AM Chairman, request that Sprint change its date. Both contests are similar (domestic) in their nature and there is a conflict and interference now. So, practice what you preach! CAN-AM will be run on the third and fourth weekend of September every year. NCJ also started to sponsor the North American QSO Party. Is only NCJ authorized to sponsor contests? It looks like K8CC is the one who is out of the contest mainstream.

By the way, if K8CC is looking for a committee to oversee the scheduling of the contests, IRSA was created for this purpose four years ago and he is welcome to join it. We are looking for more directors and we asked clubs and societies to join.

Do we need more HF contests? To answer Dave's question I would say: we need better contests! Time and participation will tell which is a good contest and which is not. Contesters will cast their votes with their logs. Those contests which are good will be packed with activity, those that are not, will loose participants.

For your information and for the benefit of your readers you should know that RADIOSPORTING, even if it looks good, is not a "commercial" publication. It is yet to make a cent. It is a sole labor of love of myself, some help from my XYL Sonya, my two sons and material contributed by top DXers and contesters. We all do it because we love the ham radio and we want to provide the publication that promotes quality, sportsmanship and fair play. We write what our readers want to read and we contribute the best based on our experiences. Typically, I spend about 150 to 200 hours a month producing RADIOSPORTING. The money that I spent on RADIOSPORTING would have netted me a six-tower multi-multi setup. Instead of bringing my tower from Ontario, I bought the laser printer for the magazine. Our magazine costs the subscriber $1.50 an issue, has 40 pages of fine printed material, some color and excellent photos. NCJ costs the subscriber $1.66 for a bimonthly issue and has about 30 small pages. You know very well what it takes to put a magazine or a bulletin together. Does VE3BMV deserve being smeared, or should he be praised and supported for his contribution to amateur radio contesting or DXing? Can you show me another person who has done so much for contesting?

Attached is an information about IRSA, RADIOSPORTING, DXCA, WRC, CAN-AM. Our contests have the best operating aids, forms and nice looking certificates. I hope that you will find it worthy to report on it in NCJ. We are going into our fourth year, growing stronger and looking better. After some problems due to our move from Ontario, we are getting back on schedule and with new laser printer starting to look really professional.

I am not bitter about your "marriage" with ARRL, I am just sorry that NCJ could not see our dedication and possible benefits to the whole contesting community. I resent comments that were made in NCJ about myself and what I have done.

I wish you and NCJ all the best. May this competitive spirit produce the best reporting magazine for DXers and contesters. There are signs that under ARRL the new NCJ will be more responsible and report the way things are. We are looking forward to our mutual cooperation. I hope you publish this letter to clearup some points and set the record straight. I wish you all the best in your new position and hope to see you soon in the pileups!

73, Yuri Blanarovich, W2/VE3BMV

Dear Yuri,

When you get a chance, I would appreciate some info on how I might donate a trophy to be awarded at the IRSA-Radiosporting contest. I am so impressed by the way the rules for this contest have been structured, as an on-and-off contester, that I would like to add to the trophy list. I have in mind a trophy for CW, World Champion, Single operator, Low power, All band.

To my mind, contesting is one of the few ham activities open to all licensed amateurs who enjoy it and I think there should be more contests, not less. Contests help "open up the bands" I think this is important during these long stretches of time of the solar minimum. Not that I enjoy all contests, some of them are designed so only the high power crowd can win, particularly the SSB ones, and others are "too easy" like shooting fish in a barrel. But a lot of good ones are there to be worked.

After reading the Radiotorial in the September issue, I thought it was too bad about NCJ too but I definitely think your own efforts make a more creative contribution to contesting as an art rather than the pure "heavy metal" enterprise it too often becomes. At any rate, I admire your good spirit and hope your mgazine does very well.

73, Mary MacKenzie, KA7FEF

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your kind offer and comments. Your trophy will be graciously accepted for the category as you wish. We hope to be out of time pressure jam soon and after our a few issues going through the "face lift" I'd like to get to work on improvement of the content. We have some interesting articles in the works, so stay tuned!

73, Yuri

VE3BMV..

Alright! Another issue of RS in my mailbox - I was worried!

Every page gets read because your contributors write about DX, Antennas, Contests and operating. That is where its at for me. I stay up all night dialing back and forth for that thrill of DX and have been for 20 years. I do a lot of SWL work and very pleased to see W2XQ column.

Keep the faith, Yuri! I subscribe to most ham magazines but so much goes unread - RS zeroes in and hits the target!

P.S. Guess what? I found a Golden 98% new-in-the-box" Hammarlund HQ-180A!!! I'm in heaven! It is fantastic... even came with perfectly new matching HQ speaker! My friends are drooling over it... I set it up next to bed (XYL is a ham, WA7WNQ) and tune during those insomnia attacks!

Truly, you are publishing a winner my friend!

73 John Nicholson, K7FD

Dear Yuri,

Because I haven't received Radiosporting since the May issue I am afraid the magazine (and you) may be in trouble.

I hope this is not true - I'd like to see you be successful in this venture but I realize you are in a rather limited market - DXers and contesters and only real ones at that.

I have enjoyed Radiosporting very much - especially news of the low bands and antenna articles, etc.

I am not able to do much to help, but I am extending my subscription for another two years if it would be any help. In any event, I wish you the best and hope it will all work out.

73 and good luck, Horace Goss, W1AB

Dear Horace,

Thanks very much for your vote of confidence it is appreciated especially from someone with a callsign like W1AB! We are sorry about the interruptions, but we are going through very hard times of adjustment to the new environment, getting business going and trying to keep the Radiosporting on schedule. World champs don't give up easy, so stay tuned for another issue.

73, Yuri

Dear Martin, VE3MR

Many thanks for the issues of Radiosporting magazine you have send us, it is a very fine magazine and I read it several times, I like it so much. Enclosed are some photos of our new antenna system at RL8PYL, we more antennas now and we are for the contests.

73, Alex, UL7PAE

the third weekend. Any other suggestions?

The activity this year was about the same as last year which we considered a success. The publicity was really low key due to the workload on my side. We are going to have our results out the fastest in the world and send them out together with the rules to all national societies. We are contemplating some changes such as increasing the power levels to 2000 and 150 W for High and Low power categories (in order to bring the power levels more in line with majority of license classes and equipment ratings); the inclusion of SWL and Novice category, and the expansion of the Club competition category to include National Teams from countries.

One problem area is with the US stations which are not signing "slash another call area" they are operating from. I realize that the FCC rules do not require this and it is a pain in the fingers to sign portable. One solution could be that we simply drop this requirement all together and count the call area the operator was licensed in, rather than the area he is operating from. At the end it balances out.

We will begin keeping WRC All Time Record tables starting this year and we will approach Guiness Book of Records people to include WRC in their book. This is the only contest that allows the fairest possible competition on a world wide scale and therefore, deserves to be recognized along with the spaghetti eating champions.

By joining IRSA you help support our contests, trophies and awards programs. You will also receive our beautiful certificate and a badge which is optional. If you have received our trophy or a certificate recently, you know what we offer. Your joining the IRSA or a small donation will go long way to supporting and promoting our worthwhile events. Don't delay, join us and be a part of a great bunch.

Contesting /M

When the WRC contest weekend came, I was caught with my 18AVT on a roof and with the shack still in disarray. Being out of contesting for almost a year my tongue and fingers were very itchy. What to do? I figured that I will try to be a multiplier, and for once be wanted. I put my Hustler mobile antenna on the car and fired up VE3BMV/M. Expecting a big demand I was worried how am I going to log them in a car.

Those worries proved to be unfounded. Rule number 98: "They can't work you, if they don't hear you!" proved to be true. After having operated Razors for a few years, what a rude awakening! CQs hardly get answered, even if you are a rare one. If there is a pileup, you have to wait until you are on the bottom of the pile - left alone. I could not devote my time to the whole contest and drive up to the top of the hill or close to the beach. So I was stuck in my driveway at the bottom of the hill, patiently tuning around and calling the big guns as they were racking up contacts. The tough life of the mobile multiplier. CW proved to be much more fruitful than phone. Tell me about CW being obsolete. There is no mode that can touch it when it comes to weak signals and QRM. You can keep your computers and packets and I'll stick with this "obsolete" mode which I enjoy more than ever. **This is ham radio - hunting the weak stations on CW, when all other modes fail!**

Changing face.

As we are mastering the art of desk top publishing, you will see some improvements. It is a new challenge for me to use this remarkable computerized tool. Being an old computer bug from way back when we had micros only at IBM (they were never sold to the outside world) I am impressed with the present development of computer hardware and software. Back in the old days IBM 360/30 filled a decent size shack. Now all that power can be put on the top of a desk. Publishing packages are getting more sophisticated, prices are dropping, new hardware becoming affordable and all of this in a pair of skilled hands can produce miracles that just a few months ago would require a team of professionals. As we go along, we will upgrade our equipment which should be reflected on our pages.

Congratulations!

Our QRP columnist Paula Franke, WB9TBU became editor of QRP Quarterly - Journal of the QRP Amateur Radio Club. Congratulations Paula and may your QRP fire never go out! What a dedicated and friendly bunch those Little Pistols are. Their forum at Dayton was very interesting. Can you turn your power down to 5 Watts? If you can, join them!

Welcome!

We welcome Ike Kershner, N3IK to our team. He answered a call for help in our last issue. He will be helping with the soliciting of advertising and keyboarding of material. He also writes for SWL Monitoring Times and enjoys low power, low band DXing. After I visited Ike's beautiful hilltop QTH in the Poconos in PA, I took back with me one of the little wonders - SONY ICF-2010 general coverage, synthesized portable receiver. What a gem! It will be used for radio surveying, measurements and the search for that ultimate radio QTH. Boy if we only had this thing back in the old days of the boat anchors. Truly amazing.

QSL promotion

We are planing to offer help with QSL card printing for expeditions and individuals. IRSA will pay a portion of the printing cost if you include our advertising on the back of the QSL card. Want to save a buck and help to promote IRSA-Radiosporting? Please contact us for details.

Holidays

The holiday season is coming. Do you have a friend who keeps borrowing your copy of Radiosporting? "Embarrass" him by subscribing to the magazine for him as a gift. Or maybe you have a DX friend, who can not afford a subscription because of the currency exchange? Send him a gift subscription to Radiosporting. I am sure they will be extremely thankful. You can't go wrong. Many say that they prefer reading our magazine to any others and interesting things are yet to come.

Thank you for your support and understanding. If we won't make another issue before Christmas, have a wonderful, peaceful and joyous Holidays!

Have a good contest season!

73 de Yuri and whole Radiosporting family

DX News

N2AU
Art Hubert

436 N. Geneva St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

DXAC NEWS - ARUBA

One of the real travesties perpetrated by the DXAC, in my view, was not accepting Aruba for new country status. I have been 'stirring the pot' ever since on this one. Well, buttressed by New England Director, K1KI and now a couple of other DXAC members the Committee has relented and will be taking another vote on this one in October 1987. I have the feeling it will pass this time but of course you never know until all the votes are counted. (I thought we had enough votes to pass it the last time but the vote ended in a tie.) Of course, the DXAC is only half the battle, remember that the DXAC only makes recommendations. It still has to make it through the Headquarters Awards Committee. Hopefully, this will all be concluded in time for doing those fall DX contest logs! (N2SS)

CW DXCC ROLLBACK

also scheduled for a vote in October is the question of whether the start date for the CW DXCC award should be rolled back to 1945 to coincide with other awards. I would like to have your views on this one. Please get your inputs to me in time for the vote.

SØ - ARAB DEMOCRATIC SAHARAUI REPUBLIC

that's the official name for SØ, also known as Western Sahara. Just prior to going to press I received a DXAC mailing that included the official request for new country status. This request was submitted by OH2BH. Marty has submitted a bound half-inch thick presentation package that would rival some of the better sales proposal packages I have seen. No vote scheduled on this one yet. If you have any comments, let me hear from you.

3V8RFA - Tunisia

Chuck Maxey, WB7RFA will be active as 3V8RFA Oct. 19 - 27, 1987 on 3.8 to 28 MHz SSB mostly, some CW.

3Y1 - Peter I Island

Breakdown of contacts by continents: Europe - 2736, Oceania - 278, Asia - 370, S. America -917, USA/VE - 9367, other - 85; by bands: 10 m - 159, 15 - 4570, 20 - 9307, 40 - 1189, 80 - 587, 160 - 29

Total number of contacts 15841, SSB-10090, CW- 5703, RTTY- 48.

3Y - Bouvet

While at Dayton, N2AU spoke to LA2GV about any plans of activating this rare country. Kare stated that neither he nor LA1EE would be attempting to operate from there. He stated that Norwegian vessel visits the island for one day about every three years to replace the batteries for the weather station equipment. There would be no problem in receiving the permission from Norway to operate from there, the main obstacle is obtaining transportation to the island and most likely the landing would require the use of a helicopter. Guess we will have to wait a while longer for an operation from there.

4MØARV QSL Cards

A note from Carl, WB4ZNH asking to be patient with QSL cards from this operation. The QSL cards were all rejected back to the company that printed them. The DXpedition crew and the Assocoation of Radio amateurs of Venezuela are insisting on a nice quality QSL card. The first one wasn't.

4U1UN - United nations

With deep regret we inform our readers that long time QSL manager of 4U1UN, Herman, W2MZV has passed away in early July after a lengthy illness. The new manager is Harry Westervelt, NA2K, 72 Kuhlthau Ave., Milltown, NJ 08850. All requests for QSL cards should go to NA2K.

4X1 - Israel

are the new callsign issued in Israel to the holders of class A Advanced license.

8P6 - Barbados

K3KG, W4NL, K3ZR, K4FJ AND N4TX (K3KG multi-single team) multi operator effort in CQ WW Phone all bands 160 to 10 m using 8P6HR callsign. QSL cards via K4BAI

A4XXV - Oman

Special event station to be active on Nov. 5 - 8 and promised some 160 m operation. QSL via ROARS, Box 981, Maskat, Sultanat Oman.

A61AV - UAE

Tom, K3TW operated this one in Oct., mainly on CW.

BY - China

BY5RT is a new station that can be found working 14.235 MHz from 1200 UTC. QSL to Box 707, Fuzhou, Peoples Republic of China.

CT3 - Madeira

WA4TLI/CT3 and AA4VK/CT3 active from Madeira from Oct. 19, through CQ WW contest. QSL cards to their home addresses.

DL4BBO/CT3 QSL cards via DL4BBO, Mainstr.29, D-2805 Stuhr 2, West Germany.

D2 - Angola

YU2NA is in Angola until March 1988 and has been promised license by PTT.

EP - Iran

Mohammed, EP2HRD, has been heard on 14.165 MHz at 1930 UTC. JF1IST/EP has been reported working Europeans on 21.200 MHz.

FT8WA - Crozet

is often on 7070 - 7080 at 0300Z, listening 7197, 7196 or 7164 kHz. QSL only direct to F6FNU.

FT8X - Kerguelen

check 14.020 MHz at 0500 UTC for FT8XD. QSL via F6FNU. Also FT2X by FB1MSR, FT4X by FL8DD and FT5X by FY7BM.

GB5NN - Great Britain

Rick, G3VZT and bunch will this special prefix station in CQ WW Phone in the multi-multi category.

H4 - Solomons

ex-A92MB now signs H44MB and he frequents 20 Meters SSB mornings from 1230 UTC. H44JA is active on 14.220 MHz at 0630 UTC.

HC - Ecuador

Bob Shohet, KQ2M will operate CQ WW CW contest from the QTH of HC5K, hoping to get special callsign. He will be before and after the contest on SSB. QSL to his address: Box 640, Stony Brook, NY, 11790.

HSØA - Thailand

will be on during CQ WW phone and CW conotest on 160 - 10 m. Need this rare zone on low bands? There is a chance.

JW - Svalbard

active till Oct. 27 by Ragnar LA7FD as JW7FD, joined by Mathias, LA5NM for the operation during CQ WW phone as JW5E. QSL to LA5NM, PO Box 210, N-9401 Harstad, Norway

JD - Ogasawara

160 Meters - look for an all band DXpedition by KA2HH, KA2PF and HL9TF operating as 7J1ADJ/JD1 (and possibly some other call signs) for one week starting Sep 2. On 160 Meters they will be transmitting on 1909 KHz and listening on 1911-1916 KHz.

KH3 - Johnston Island

WB4KMV/KH3 is active on 14.236 MHz at 0310 UTC and WH6BOQ/KH3 is on 14.184 MHz at 1200 UTC.

WY5L/KH3 tries 160 m from 1030Z almost every day around 1842. He is also active on 6 m. He will be there another year.

KH4 - Midway Island

active during CQ WW SSB and 21 - 28 Oct. 1987 with NY6M and KH2F. QSL for KH2F/KH4 via N2AU, NY6M/KH4 via 86/87 Callbook addr.

Check our DXCA Award!

Say You Saw It In Radiosporting

KP2A - Virgin Islands

will be on for the CQ WW CW in multi-multi category, also some activity in phone portion. Last year this group finished #1 in the world as KP2N in multi-multi category. QSL via N6CW.

KZ2ØØZ USA Bicentennial Station

Bethel Educational ARS will be operating this National Bicentennial of the Constitution special event station on all HF frequencies and all modes during the week of January 9 -15, 1988. QSL with SASE to BEARS, Bethel Middle School, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT 06801

P4 -Aruba

if Aruba does make new country status, it certainly won't be difficult to work. The following operations are planned for October and November: P4 by WR6M and N1CIX October 1-6; P4ØGD by W2GD CQWW CW; P4 by KB2HZ CQWW SSB; P4ØA by N1GL/4 CQWW SSB.

PJ7 - Saint Maarten

PJØJ active during CQ WW phone by K4PI, KN4B, KX4R and W3BTX. Before and after the contest they will sign their calls /PJ7. QSL PJØJ to K4PI, individual calls go to their home addresses.

PY2AMI Beacon

station operates on the following frequencies: 18090, 24901, 28300 and 50075 kHz using 10W into a ground plane antennas. Transmits QTH, Locator, height and address.

SØ - Western Sahara

SØRASD operation by EA2OP, EA2JG and OH2BH is to start by the end of October and operate in CQ WW phone contest.

ST2 - Sudan

PAØAQM/ST2 has been worked on 14.015 MHz at 2248 UTC. QSL address is: Gerben Menting, P.O. Box 3794, Khartoum, Sudan.

SY - Mt. Athos

DXpedition by the greek operators finally fired up from this rare one. Signing SV2 callsigns /SY they been heard on 21250, 14190 and 14030 listening up and showing up on some DX nets. QSL via SV2SV.

TF - Iceland

has now WARC band privileges: 100 W CW on 10100 - 10150 kHz, 18068 - 18168 and 24890 - 24990 kHz.

TSØDX - Somalia

In a turnabout action, the ARRL DXCC Desk is now accepting QSL cards for TSØDX operation for DXCC credit, you can resubmit your card now.

Juliano, T5GG has been reported on 14190 at 2240Z and 21270 at 1900Z. QSL via PO Box B62, Mogadiscio, Somalia

V47 - St. Kitts

nulti-multi operation by the Dixie DXers in CQ WW phone using N4FD/V47 or special call. Operators include N4FD, W4EVG, NT9U, AA4MJ, WA4MMK, WB4FLB and KA4MKH. QSL via W4MGX.

VK9 - Cocos Keeling

Ron, ZL1AMO active through Oct. 16. QSL via ZL1AMO with SAE and IRCs.

Starting Nov. 25, 1987, Hans, F6GVD and Victor, G3AAG will operate as VK9YH and VK9YV. They will listen for QRP stations on the hour for about 10 minutes and at the half hour for handicapped operators. QSL via QSL Manager VK9YC or direct to F6GVD.

VP5- Turks & Caicos Island

K6ANP, WW6F, KK6X & W6OSP will operate VP5W during CQ WW CW Contest. QSL via WW6F.

VU - Andamans

VU4GDG DXpedition to the Andamans by the Coimbatore Amateur Radio Club October 5 through 26. Operators include: VU2GDG, VU2CE, VU2GO, VU2DVP, VU2CVP, VU2APE, VU2WY, VU2TS, VU2DQP, VU2NRS, VU2NBC. It is more less the same group as for Laccadive operations with few more CW operators added. Operation on all bands including 160 (1840 - 1860 kHz) and 80 meters (TX 3695, listening around 3800, CW 3500 - 3550). QSL via VU2GDG, PO Box 3755, Coimbatore 641 018, India.

XE - Mexico

YASME DXpeditioners Iris, W6QL, and Lloyd, W6KG, Colvin will operate CQ WW phone and CW contests from Mexico, hoping to get special calls. They will operate between the contests in their usual manner - handing out contacts to those who still miss this country on particular band/mode. QSL to YASME Foundation, PO Box 2025, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

XF4DX - Revillagigedo

"The XF4DX Story: Revillagigedo DXpedition," a 15-minute video is available for purchase. This VHS tape (PAL, SECAM available upon request) compiled from slides and videotape shot on the DXpedition is available from Don Daso, WA8MAZ, Rte 1 Box 246, Mt. Holly, NC 28120 for $20.00 postpaid.

XU - Kampuchea

XU1SS has been working both SSB and CW on 14.155 to 14.165 MHz between 1230 and 1330 UTC. They have also been on 14.240 MHz at 1500 UTC. QSL via JA1HQG.

XX9 - Macao

4X6TT operating as XX9TTT has been reported active on 14.195 MHz at 1200 UTC. QSL to his home call. KC7V plans to sign XX9TMF Sep 8-11. QSL to his home address.

YBØJH - Indonesia

is very active on 160 - 1834 at 2300Z. QSL Box 271, Jakarta 10710, Indonesia.

YN3EO - Nicaragua

will be there until June 88 and expects to operate on 160 m. QSL to Y32KE.

ZL6BA - Antarctica

Sojo, VK7ZSJ will be active starting December 87. He was VKØSJ on Macquarie.. QSL to VK7RM or WB6AFJ.

ZYØ - Fernando de Noronha

five Brazilian ops are scheduled to activate this one on all bands Sep 9-13. Calls assigned are: ZYØFMN, ZYØFCA, ZYØFKL, ZYØFRT and ZYØFCM. QSL to: Karl Mesquita Leite, PS7KM, Caixa Postal 385, 59001 Natal - RN, Brazil.

K1BV DX Awards Directory

Includes more than 680 different DX Awards from 73 countries in 150+ pages with detailed rules, sample application form, QSLing and more. Cost USA First Class $14.35, DX Surface Mail $13.75, DX Air Mail US $16.75 available from Ted Melinosky, K1BV, 525 Foster St., South Windsor, CT 06074.

A big thank you to our contributors: K2JF, NF2L, WB2YOF, N3ARK, W3BGN, N3EC, WA3IJZ, K3IPK, W3MA, AD3V, K3WW, VU2GDG, VE3JPP, WW6F, DJ9ZB, N6DX, N4TX, K2JF, N2SS, QRZDX, The DX Bulletin, Inside DX and W1AW.

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160 m Bulletin

Founded by Slew Perry, W1BB

LZ2CJ
Dr. Wally Stefanoff
40 Grenaderska Str.
Block Prilep-1, enter V apt. 11
5800 Pleven, Bulgaria

We are back!

After a few months of break, we are back on the RADIOSPORTING pages. There are some changes here to report: I've got married in July and was busy arranging a new place for living plus new occupation commitments. After things have settled down a bit I had finally a chance to send out this column.

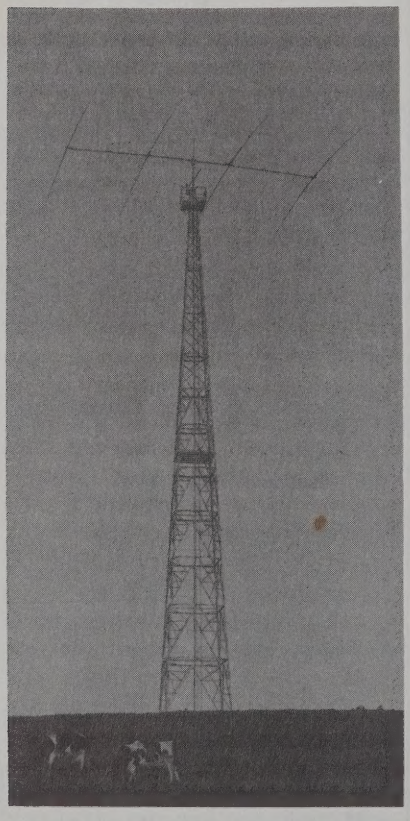
I will try to stick to the two month schedule I promised earlier and after about the end of October, I should be active on 20 meters with 200 W and a 4 element Yagi and check into the 160 m information nets. DXing on the top band will still remain just a good dream for me at least for next couple of years. But we still have the contests and I hope I will be able to get away to operate in them and to meet many of you on the air.

Beverages.

I want to correct the error, which probably crept in due to retyping of material. In May 87 issue of my "160 m DX News" it was stated that the US signals on 310 m long, 1.5 m high beverage antenna were attenuated relatively more because they were coming over the hill, which was not true! Signals were attenuated simply because the beverage was too long for a height it was installed at. Otherwise if the beverage was of right length at the right height in my situation (sloping terrain) it should have according to the theory perform equally or better than a normal beverage in a given direction (in my case USA), because of lower wave angle it has in this direction. (See ON4UN's comments in Jan. 87 RADIOSPORTING.)

About VE3BMV's remarks in the same issue on SWA antenna and matching transformers I would like to mention that I'm familiar with both but I can not use even an SWA in my situation here and it was not possible to install the matching transformer and coaxial cable at LZ1KDP. It is a city lot area there with too many children playing around and we would have to replace the coax and transformer every day. The example with LZ1KDP beverage was given to tell the newcomers to 160 what not to do and why.

When one needs to run the coax between the beverage and receiver, it is advisable to use the matching transformer and preamplifier. If the length of the coax is too long it helps to have one amplifier installed at the antenna matching transformer and another one at the receiver end. Perhaps you will not need preamps most of the time, but I'm sure there will be stations you won't hear without them. I know that some top band operators will say that the band background noise is high enough, but from my experience I found it always helps to have one available. So my advice is - use whatever you can when operating this unpredictable and beautiful band!



Dick, GI3OQR has this antenna farm, complete with cows: his 140 foot tower supports 4 el. 40 meter beam and is responsible for that super signal on 160 meters.

CQ WPX CW 1987

Probably it is too late to share some experiences from this one, but we say that "better late than never." WPX CW hasn't caused big thrills on 160 m on our continent. All was as usual - the absence of big signal stations from S. America and Africa plus bad propagation to North America made the test tedious for many who operated. In spite of that I have made a few contacts which were a good reward for my patience. About 90% of contacts were from Europe, out of that 38% were made with European USSR. This is just opposite when operating on SSB. I think that recording the information about my upcoming operation in the Voice DX Bank has helped me a lot to increase the number of Western European stations worked this year.

OZ7HT was welcomed multiplier, since OZ stations are not that frequent on 160 m these days. SV1RP/SV5 was a new prefix and a country for many. The same goes for many SV friends who tried very hard to operate CW. Hungarian club stations HG5A and HG9R were persistently strong all the time, CT1YH's signal has caused receiving problems to us in Eastern Europe. The latest newcomers to top band from Belgium were on with good signals: ON4GO, ON4XG, ON7XT and others.

To be fair I have to say that there were big DX signals too: Rolf, PY1RO was very strong at the beginning of the contest and kept his signal till the sunrise at my QTH, coming through all this time from the direction over Africa! K5HK/mm with his ship landed station located ashore Alexandria, Egypt had many top banders excited. Most of them were sorry that he wasn't portable SU - the badly needed zone and country.

The first sign of a good Asian opening around 1800Z first evening was the big signal from Boris, RW9USA (ex UA9UCZ). It took me five minutes to realize that it was really ZS6AL calling me so early from S. Africa. He was 559 coming through over the skewed path as PY1RO did. TR8JLD was coming via normal path at 2110Z when a few seconds earlier I heard him finishing his contact with Kent, SM4CAN. It seems that no one else was able to hear him. The second night at 1920Z UZ9AYA almost blew up my old IC701 receiver's front end, they were 599 plus 30 dB, the usual strength of YZ1U here. They said they were using the 35 m high exponential ground plane vertical installed 30 m high on the University building's roof. Finally C30DAW surprised us with his nice signal and have created a good pileups few minutes before the end of the contest. UB5ZAL made about 208 QSOs and worked LU2YE, VE1BVL and VK6HD.

Beacons

Here are the frequencies of some useful "beacon" stations which might be helpful to check the propagation on top band from given directions:

930 kHz - New Brunswick, Canada, AM
1220 kHz - Brazil, AM
1570 kHz - Turks and Caicos, AM
1610 kHz - Anguilla, AM
1830 kHz - DHJ, Germany, CW
1832.5 kHz - OSN, Belgium, CW

Sweden

Kent, SM4CAN has been very active on 160 with TS-930S, gamma matched tower with about 3000 m of radials and two beverage antennas - 190 and 295 m long aiming at West and South. Kent uses preamps on his beverages and has worked 85 countries and 30 zones in one

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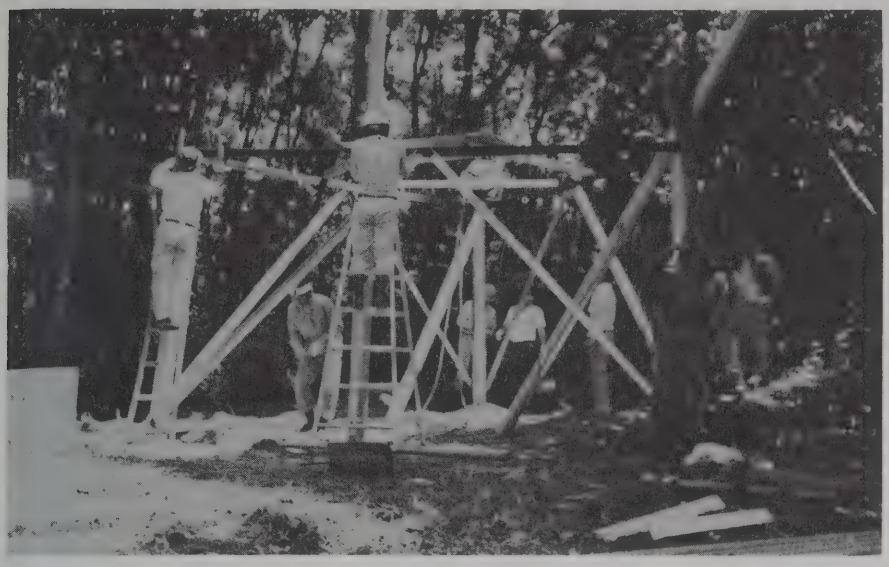

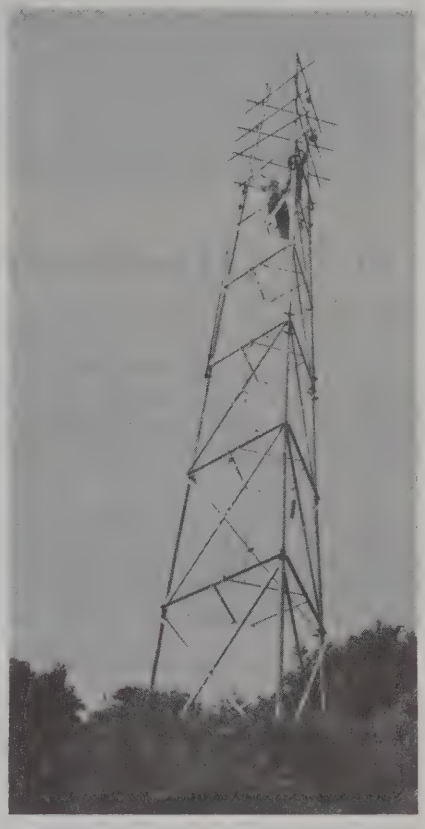

JA6IEF starting the construction of his 80/160 m tower structure (above). Few days later it looked like this (right). Some impressive project!

year of activity. He is also very active 80 m DXer too and he has printed booklet called "Practical Bobtail Layouts" (see ad in classified section in this issue), which he offers for sale.

SM5CAK QSL Manager's List (since 1965) will help you to obtain that rare QSL card. Send SASE for your sample copy to Lars Bohm, SM5CAK, Stora Angesby, S-59190 Motala, Sweden.

160 m DXCC standings

The information received allowed me to update the European and North American listings only. Here they are:

North America

1.	W8LRL	203/211
2.	N4PN	195/201
3.	AA1K	194/198
4.	W4DR	193/199
5.	N4WW	187/197
6.	VE1ZZ	185/188
7.	WØZV	185/188
8.	K8MFO	180/183
9.	W9ZR	175/180
10.	K1MM	171/177

Europe

1.	G3SZA	182/188
2.	PAØHIP	181/185
3.	DL1YD	165/168
4.	DL9KR	160/164
5.	DJ8WL	158/163
6.	UT5AB	148/153
7.	HB9AMO	141/148
8.	DL1RK	140/147
9.	GD4BEG	129/131
10.	SP5INQ	120/130

160 m WAZ

We are happy to report that the "impossible" was finally done - our good friend Pierre, HB9AMO worked 40 WAZ zones. We are also glad that RADIOSPORTING magazine and this column have helped in publicizing and promoting the activity on 160 meters and zone chasing on this band by starting the 160 m WAZ standings in June 86 issue. Here are the latest standings of 160 WAZ:

1.	HB9AMO	39/40
2.	G3SZA	39/39
3.	PAØHIP	39/39
4.	UG6GAW	37/37
5.	K5UR	35/35
6.	AA1K	34/34
7.	VE1ZZ	34/34
8.	4X4NJ	33/36
9.	SP5INQ	33/36
10.	WØZV	33/33
11.	DJ8WL	32/32
12.	LZ1KDP	30/35
13.	LZ2CJ	30/32

DX Activity

South America

Mario, LU8DPM sent me a letter with the information about S. American activity: Many stations are now active between 0100 - 0300Z every day on CW and SSB. Most active are: CX2DC, ZP5JCY, LU5HJD, LU8DPM, CE8ABF, VP8ALJ, LU9FFA, LU2YE and others. LU8DPM still needs the following European countries: OZ, ON, OE, LX, LA, I, etc. Mario is ready to arrange schedules every day 1800 - 2100Z on 14310 kHz or one could write him a letter to: Mario Paul Andraca, PO Box 45, 7150 Ayacucho, Bs. As., Argentina.

Rumania

Romanian amateurs are allowed on the top band on everyday basis as of July 8, 1987. The frequencies where they are allowed to operate are 1810 - 1840 on CW and 1840 - 1850 on SSB. First class operators are allowed to use 400 W PEP, second class 100 W and third class 25 W PEP. The most active stations are: YO6AJI, YO8RAA, YO6FCW, YO4DCF, YO3EM, YO2IS, YO9AYN, YO8FR, YO8KAE.

Karlen, UG6GAW worked A4XJZ on CW with 589 signal report. Anyone knows QSL route?

7J1ADJ/JD1, Ogasawara was supposed to be on 160.

C2/WB6GFJ was active 1825 at 1200Z and C21XX will be there for two years. He should be active on CW also.

FT8WA has no longer rig for the top band. FT8Z should be active around December.

HSØB with operator Kurt should be operational on the top band starting September.

AH2F worked on 160 was apparently a pirate. Bob says he never operated this band in the past.

KA2HH to be active as HL9TF on 1909/RX 1912.

OX3KD is supposed to have an 160 m antenna operational for this season.

YI1BGD operators are going to modify their TR4C transceiver for 160 m and will provide Iraq to hungry 160 m crowd.

YBØJH and SVØAA/5 are active around 2300Z on 1835 CW.

VE2DYX is an active station from zone 2.

Italians are active on SSB 1840 every evening after 2000Z. (LZ2CJ)

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DXpeditioning

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5U7 - "DXpediton for nothing"

A thick haze hung over the Niger River valley belying the almost total absence of humidity in the air, as the sun slowly disappeared from view a great distance above the horizon. I sat quietly on the terrace of the Grand Hotel in Niamey, a somewhat gracefully aging relic of colonial days past, nursing a large green bottle of Biere Niger. There were a great many things to contemplate that late afternoon in October, and my mind raced from item to item in an endless circle, akin to a small boy in a toy store being asked to choose one present. Unfortunately, the similarity ended there.

The sensory things in a way were the least real. The wide slow moving River Niger bringing fish to feed the fisherman's family and water for irrigation, washing and drinking was a ribbon of brown, curling through an almost desolate desert. Over the river in the late afternoon circled and darted hundreds of large bats come from their dens to fish in the river and feed on the millions of insects drawn to the lights of this capital city, Niamey. The bats swoop down on the river, after having located fish near the surface with their built-in sonar, and troll the water, with a hook, nature so conveniently placed on their wing. It appeared that the success rate was rather low and only occasionally would a distant bat fly to a tree to devour a fish. Around the lights of the hotel parking lot were great quantities of flying insects and the pavement was covered each morning with the carcasses of those who died from numerous collisions with the bulbs. Among those fallen aviators were a few giant locusts, the largest being roughly the size of an adult Robin.

In the cool of that early evening, firewood merchants were coming into town, their camels piled high with small dried branches. The slow moving, swaying camels contrasted sharply with the modern city, but somehow they did not seem at all out of place. As the sky drew dark and the river faded from view, the odor of distant cooking fires reached my nostrils as a faint and exotic incense. The acceptance of a second failure to bring Amateur Radio back to 5U7 was not so difficult as I had imagined. The tension of the effort was draining away as I knew we would soon be boarding a UTA 747 for Paris and home. The incredible frustration was beginning to become a memory as I ordered another beer and indulged myself in self-pity and daydreamed of how nice the pile-ups would have been. Suddenly I was brought back to reality: "Hey, Chef, you look, I have many nice things." The jewelry salesman had slipped past the watchful eyes of the Hotel security. "No, Merci, no!" I replied. Pulling several small silver Crosses of Agadez from his pocket and dangling them in my face, he obviously would not accept a mere "No" for an answer. "I have three already, thank you." The salesman knows less English than I know French; I think I had just heard the majority of his English vocabulary. He thinks that I want three instead of having three, "Last price?" he beckoned. "No! Merci beaucoup, no!" I lament and just in the nick of time a waiter spots my predicament and evicts the interloper. Whew!

The actual origin of the Cross of Agadez has been lost over the centuries but the most believable theory is that its construction was to enable the residents of the ancient city of Agadez to identify returning residents from potential invaders. The idea took hold and other cities emulated the cross and this resulted in numerous varieties of similarly constructed crosses but which are all lumped together under the title "Cross of Agadez". The most likely Cross of Agadez is a four pointed diamond-shaped star with a small circle mounted on the uppermost point. This circle has a wing on each side and the other three points have an arrowhead on them.

Over 90% of the people of Niger are involved in some form of agriculture but the lure of the big city results in unemployment. Some people find work while others become merchants. Many of these self-styled salesmen lurk about the entrances to hotels, banks or other businesses frequented by European types in hopes of selling their handicrafts. As I poured the remainder of the Biere Niger into my glass, I smiled to myself about the knowing smirks I received from a European lady at the entrance to the Belgian Embassy as I strode by trying to conceal a sword I had purchased from a Jewelry Box/Sword salesman. It is interesting to note that the vast majority of the people selling these products are of a particular minority ethnic group in Niamey. My secret desire is to smuggle a handful of these arabic types into the U.S. as magazine and encyclopedia salesmen and become a millionaire. One enthusiastic salesman could not be dissuaded until I told him that if he gave it to me as a gift I would not accept it. My french was atrocious but effective.

My thoughts once again returned to the government of Niger, the Post and Telecommunications where everyone seemed eager for our success for the permission to operate and the Ministry of the Interior from which final approval never came. The saddest part of failing was that we still did not know the objection to Amateur Radio or which Ministry had objected. When Martha and I had been there three years earlier, I thought I understood. This time I thought I had offered a satisfactory solution to their concerns. Already I had begun to plot my next approach to a 5U7 license but promising myself to do it by mail instead of a third expensive DXpedition for nothing. I drained my glass and started back to the hotel room to help Martha pack. On the way, I began to calculate the number of years that had passed since I had contacted the P.T.T. of Yemen. Gee, I wonder if they would let me have 4W1BC? (WB4ZNH)

In ever increasing circles BANYANDAH

circumnavigates the WORLD

Jack Binder, KB7NW

I wonder if ever another family has sailed so far or so long. One boat, two boys, and a mon and a dad; one hundred thousand miles across the seas, a hundred plus countries visited, every ocean crossed. In thirteen years of life aboard our precious BANYANDAH, we've done very very much.

When the boys were no more than infants, our first voyage took us once around the Coral Sea. A lifestyle evolved. During their middle years, we sailed round Asia and Indian Ocean countries. "VOYAGES OF EDUCATION" began. After that we set off to leisurely explore Japan and every island on both sides of the Pacific. On the way, the boy's ages clicked double digits. Now, today, Jason's sixteen, Jerome's fifteen, and we've just returned from circling the world.

Hip Hip Horay! We're back and we're safe. To all our worldwide friends be it known that your hospitality and generosity made this life dream possible. We give you our heartfelt thanks. May the rest of mankind know of your thoughtful kindness May our society be modeled more upon it.

Here are a few facts, a few highlights, from our latest adventure:

If you've a thousand and fifty days of free time twenty seven thousand Aussie dollars in spare cash and don't mind sleeping miles out at sea for two hundred and forty-seven nights (that's every fourth night), then you too can circumnavigate the world!! Hmm, I almost forgot, there is one more thing. You'll need a splendid little ship like the BANYANDAH to convert all those funny numbers into the magic that's the dream come true.

Hold on, the anchor's coming up. Right we're away!

On a hot, sticky, first of February 1984, a resplendent BANYANDAH, kited out with tons of new gear and a shiny new paint job, motored slowly out the mud colored inlet at CAIRNS in North Australia. On deck, gazing aft through distorting wavelets of heat, the Four J's took a fond last look at the town that had been their home for eighteen months. Beside us, dressed in flashy new deckmasters and double dark polaroids, was a newcomer to sailing. Bruce Nichols, a teacher for many years, was along as tutor and much more. Behind us, the town grew smaller, the green tablelands merged into the haze. Ahead, under a powdery blue sky encompassing a cool blue sea, our sailing home continued reaching for the open horizon. Unbeknownst to us all, a world circumnavigation had just then begun.

Oddly enough at departure our plan was to circumnavigate only the continent of Africa - East Africa's game parks on the way out, historical Europe on the way home. But, it never happened that way. We got as far as our shake down cruise to New Guinea, but there tra dah! - a fatality. Our scholar's mind went agog at the simple beauty of remote village life. His sheltered eyes popped wide. He loved it. So much so he quit the boat.

Teacherless, yet happy to be just the Four J's again, we decided to go it alone and in four quick jumps, we sailed three thousand miles across the Indian Ocean to Mauritius. After a month's holiday from the sea there, a chance encounter set us off adventuring again.

Landfall Madagascar

The night is black, a billion stars and a small crescent moon offer little useful light. All day a gale has been gathering its forces and now, with the shadow of a strange land whipping by too damn close, it is raging. Somewhere ahead in the noise and spume tossed sea is a gash through a cliff which opens into Diego Suarez, Madagascar's most northern port. I know nothing about the entrance. My chart shows a hundred miles of island. The entrance I'm going for is but a pencil width on it. I have no other guide. We shouldn't be anywhere near this place, but an invite by a Malagasy man we met in Mauritius has us wanting to enter this forbidden land.

Suddenly the black shadow of land splits. I see town lights. They're bright and huge and I'm even more bewildered. Should I turn in? But what if there are dangers hidden by the night....

Tettering, go or no go, I turn ahead and behold a scene I've imagined only in my cruelest nightmares. There in front of my ship, extending off till the dimness of night hides all, I see what seems a field of dirty white snow, and dimly across it, I see two furrows arch and run in. A heartbeat passes while my mind wrestles with what it refuses to believe. Then the full terror of the night grips my guts.....REEF! Right then, a base animal instinct took charge and without knowing it, I raced to drop headsails while, high above the shrill of wind and noise of sea, a high pitched screeching was heard....JUDITH! START THE ENGINE! FULL POWER!

God and Lady Luck stood by our sides that black windswept night for without them these facts would never have been written.

Jude, down below, heard the panic in my call and with one sure sweep of her arm pushed the night's dinner fixings into the sink and ran for the controls. Ours is a pretty old engine, but as always, she fired first shot. Then cool, know-

ing her job and sticking to it, Jude hit the throttle full tilt and spun the wheel hard to starboard.

Here's where the luck of it all comes in. With only a main up and braced out to port, the packet of wind in our lopsided rig began to slew Banyandah around. With full engine revs, her prop chewed into the frothy sea and ever so slowly she began to turn away from those breakers. In those lifetime seconds of time, with nothing else possible to do, I stood like a solid lump of granite rock and waited and I prayed. Life appeared sharp, clear, noises raged but inside everything was still as I waited for Fate.

Frames of time clicked by until Jude's cry of "eight feet!" penetrated my wall of concentration. No moments for thought, no panic, for that's when the first giant comber came out of the night. Hissing, a wall of glowing white, it roared high above our heads, then crashed down taking our ship under. Through clinched fists round rigging I felt a sick shudder run through Banyandah and thought, this is it, our lives are over, the crunch of reef against my ship will be next. Surfacing, rivers of water cascading, I heard our engine still roaring. Above that, I heard my children crying....

SAFARI IN AFRICA
Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya

"Okay, that's it. Jump in and we're off." Two lively boys with wide grins and excited eyes animating their faces, hopped into the tiny four wheel drive Suzuki and squeezed into the cramped space piled high with camping gear. With a high pitched whine the little car lurched forward and the Four J's were off down the back streets of Mombasa heading straight for the heartland of Africa.

Later that night, and for nights after while on tour, we pitched our tent in the open veldt with the cries of wild animals surrounding us. A nervous sleep, a breakfast of coffee and cereal in the cool first light of the plains, then out on safari. Just the four of us, cruising the open lands, running quietly down the lines of trees along streams, searching for a sighting of a lion making a kill, a cheetah returning home, a leopard prancing into the bush. Always about were herds of elephants, gazelles, giraffes and scores of other beast. Our cameras went crazy, spools of film raced. Our knowledge soared.

CRACK! Indian Ocean Seychelles to Aden

A thousand miles out from and island group, itself a thousand miles from recognizable land, I slumbered in the growing light of a fire red dawn while outside the power of the wind and sea increased. In my uneasy sleep, my sailor's mind dreamed of a Banyandah racing furiously across a mountainous sea towards waves that kept building to the sky. Helpless, I watched my ship hit. A hurtful shudder ran deep. Murmuring no, no, I saw her driven by full sail and strong winds into the next. Green water, white water, like the angered beast she drove through, catapulting herself into the void behind that bigger wave. In space, her fourteen tons fell, crashing to sea with a terrible jolt. Below, slammed into my bunk, a crack like rifle fire ripped through my mind, and alarmed, I struggled to awake.

A dream? Unsure, yet with a frightened heart madly beating my eyes opened as our cabin doors crash wide and a wild eyed Jerome, white hair flung by the wind, thrust his head in. "Dad!, the rigging just broke. The mast's come adrift!"

RED SEA - A battle, but worth it.

The most ancient of seas, and the most cursed. Parallel ridges of mountains, each holding back a desert, from the shores of this sea and funnel hot wind thickened with sand straight down from the north. Eleven hundred miles to the top, hostilities both sides, hardship, a challenge.

We'll always remember that black night when an Eritrean gunship tracked us down with it's powerful spotlight then tried to stop us with automatic gun fire in the air. Blinded the Four J's stood fast and defied them. "We're Australians!" we shouted, "Let us pass in peace." Hours later, after a scary cat and mouse chase off war torn Ethiopia, we luckily slipped away.

Other lasting memories: The seemingly endless battle up wind. Then at the top, at LUXOR, the timeless wonder of the Pharaoh's tombs. In Cairo, the hovels of the once most civilized, now the least organized. 'Has man's blessed wisdom run him to this...'

EUROPE GEPPINO and the SIX WEEK WONDER TOUR

There's just not enough space to describe half the magic. We saw miles of Turkey, walked the 3,000 year old streets of Ephesus, walked those of fabulous Istanbul too. Saw so much of life. We got in plenty of Greek isles as well. Saw Athens, her treasures and temples too.

Then came Italy and our special time with the Geppino Mauro family at beautiful, tiny Ventotene Island where each of our two families shared something beautiful with the other, and, que bellisimo, the food and wine.

When the tick-tock of time ended that happening, we accepted Geppino's offer of a car. No, not a car, a genuine un-copyable wreck, and the Four J's took off on a madcap, greasy paw, swirl through the rest of Europe.

Beth and her family in Belgium made it a treat. So did Helen and her brood in Paris, as did Franz, DJ9ZB in Freiburg. We saw more history and art than are in five volumes of encyclopedia. But WOW! did we see crowdedness too.

ATLANTIC

Zip zap! Banyandah flew across the sea made into a highway by Columbus. Then once in the isles where blacks laze back sucking sweetness from stalks of cane, we reined her in to a halt. Two thousand six hundred and fifty miles in just under nineteen days, that's a Banyandah record.

CARIBBEAN

Margaret and David, old family friends from frozen England and two of the lily whitest folk you ever did see, just happened to drop in on us from out of the sky. Fair game, we thought, and laid on the full FOUR J's treatment. Pity poor David, a once up and coming business tycoon, now ruined. When last seen his eyes overflowed with wonderlust, his mind chased freedom of life. And Margaret, we said, "Go for it, girl." And she did! Imagine, swimming when you don't

know how and mastering a car when they give you the shakes. Super thanks you two for the Mardi Gras at St. Lucia, the pulling of the net on the beach with all those other simple folk, our walks through shanty towns and talks with the locals, the lonely beach bar-b-ques, and the sea-sick express...were all golden moments.

PANAMA

We passed the Panama Canal with almost no hitch. Up to the top in three easy stages. Then down two steps before an inexperienced pilot smacked us into a wall! Oh well, not too big of a hole! Just one the size of my HAND!!!

MALPELO

Once in the Pacific, we set off for our most favorite kind of adventure. We pointed our wonder girl towards a 1,300 foot monolith jutting rather forlornly out of an empty sea. Malpelo, unmanned, 300 miles off Columbia's coast, a rock without any vegetation and nesting site for literally thousands of sea birds, was brash and bold when it confronted us our third morning out. Vertical sides erupting from the very depths of Poseidon's lair challenged our skills. But we gave it a go. And somehow got ourselves anchored long enough for three of us to scale her summit!! Our note, in a bottle at the top, later brought a President's hearty reply!

SOUTH AMERICA

Down south of the border, we cruised into Ecuador to see how hot blooded Latin Americans do things. Leaving our home at a quiet seaside town we took to the road. Hitching, taking buses, sometimes just walking, we covered the ground. From Pacific seaside, to the top of the Andes, down to the steamy jungle of the Amazon basin we tramped. Do you know how many folk can be met and talked with when you're weeks on the road? Or how much everyday life can be seen. Travel is Education. Next time around, we'll have more South American life.

THE GALAPAGOS

Here's an adventure you should have been on. Our sail through these strange, unique, islands became a close exposure to the beauty and realness of our world's animal life. We loved it.

At first, it was bit hard to gain the necessary permissions to take our private vessel at will through this World Heritage area. But a personal front up by the FOUR J's at Naval Headquarters in Ecuador did the trick.

After that, good fortune just kept on shining. A quiet five day sail brought the Archipelago into view. Then, within minutes of landing, we re-met Jairon and Beth, friends last seen boarding a plane in Ecuador to start their new life in these very isles. Our last words had been a promise that we'd meet again, that we would share that cruise we've spoken so much about. In return, Jairon had promised he'd be a Park Guide by the time we arrived.

Well, he was, or more exactly, he became one the first week we were there. And the FOUR J's became his first clients free ones, of course.

So, with Jairon and Beth, we took off on a voyage that became nothing shorter than six reels of adventure. We went everywhere, saw everything and had the islands and their volcanic moonscape and dis-armingly friendly animals all to ourselves. We strolled black volcanic sand beaches littered with lounging seals and sea lions. We rock hopped right behind giant salt spitting marine iguanas who actually could leap into the sea and swim underwater! And in the cool silence of a multihued sunset, we sat back and watched the courtship dance of flightless cormorants. We played with penguins, swam with porpoises, rode giant tortoises, and generally became one with an animal kingdom that accepted us as friends and fellow playmates.

Like Darwin, I had a revelation while in the Galapagos. Mine had more to do with man living with his world. And how, if we weren't chasing such a crazed one eyed view of life, we could organize ourselves so that we were more surrounded by the liveliness of Nature and our world's animals. Truly, along with kids, our world and its animals are the reasons for life.

With fresh remembrances of how really crowded our world has become, of how pushed back and depleted the animal kingdom is, I caught a vision of our world with less people. I saw it functioning well progressing at a more equalizing rate with less confusion created by less masses in smaller communities with many more of this wonderful planet's animals living closer to us. That may sound inconvenient, dangerous or harebrained to some of you. But to a lot of others, it's a dream seemingly beyond our reach.

EASTER ISLAND Isla de Pascua = Rapa Nui

Here's another adventure you should have been on. A voyage to the navel of the world. Or, if not its navel, then to probably it's most isolated inhabited island. An island filled with mysterious treasures still to be figured out.

On our very first night anchored off harborless Easter Island, a shift in the storm winds threatened to smash us in the thundering waves crashing the hostile rock shore. More winter storms followed and leaving our vessel unattended was always a risk. Our long voyage seemed wasted, for even after riding the surf into a landing, we were limited to quick sorties in front of our home. You see, though only a small place ten miles long, transport was necessary, and for us, it just didn't exist.

Ah, but here's where help from others saved us again. Orlando, a Native Pascuan, who thirty years earlier had set himself adrift in an open boat to escape Easter's isolation, a man who today owns a small hotel and a man I became quite fond of, came to our rescue. The first day I met him, he offered to chauffeur us to all the island's interesting sites. Later in our visit, he brought us truckloads of supplies: food, butane gas, barrels of water, then offered us his home. For a week our sons lived in his house and became part of his family. For a few days his son became my crew.

And when we sailed from Easter Island, after we'd seen and touched all those gigantic somber statues and walked the island's rocky land surrounding the holy altars and rock carving, after we'd listened to all the tales of island folklore from our newly acquainted friends, then we took with us that same son of that special man. I had offered the ride first to his dad for I had seen the blue horizon boil in his eyes, but

he had not the time. Sadly refusing, Orlando had asked us to take instead his twenty-three year old son. And, after an farewell fiesta, that's just what we did.

ON THE WAY HOME....

Benji, his son, strummed his ukulele and sang Polynesian songs against flaming red sunsets on our slow crossing to French Polynesia. Another highlight of that voyage was a giant whale which followed us through a storm, performing a dozen leaps clear of the sea. Nature's magic...

Once in Polynesia, we landed at several atolls near to Mururoa where the French are exploding their nuclear bombs. Most were either empty, or very sparsely populated. You see, the Tuamotoan islanders are paid such a nice subsidy by the French, they prefer to live in the bigger cities on the mainland type islands well away from the bomb testing site.

At the time, that seemed fine to us for out amongst their low lying atolls we had a couple of places completely to ourselves. At one coral ringed lagoon, we even took up residence in a timber shanty with a wharf out from where the "B" lay secure.

In all, we had two weeks of wholesome 'Swiss Family Robinson' type life. Where each day the team worked hard bringing back some of Banyandah's lustre and shine, where each day we dove in clear seas to hunt fish, dodge sharks, collect a rare shell. Life had beauty and meaning, and we existed quite happily cut off from the world.

But twice we came down with fish poisoning. A very serious event. All on board were stricken. We felt weak, as if having lead in our knees. When it struck, we poo-pooed the idea that the nuclear bombs or leakage had anything to do with it. But later, after learning more, it played on my mind. Never in all our years of catching and eating fish have we been stricken with the deadly ciguateras. Never in all the world.

Now I believe the French must be stopped. We can't really think that their constant exploding of massive bombs deep in our earth isn't harmful. We must be mad if we do. We must all put our foot down to stop this destruction of our planet.

For our kids and the future of man, and this world's other living creatures, the FOUR J's ask you to speak out, to pressure your government to act with strength. We must STOP DESTROYING our world.

LANDFALL AUSTRALIA

At high noon, the 19th of December 1986, one thousand and fifty days after departure, Australia's hazy shore broke into view and a cheer rent the air. We had started out west, returned home heading the same way. That proves it, the world IS ROUND....

WHERE TO NEXT??

We have bought some land beside a river. We are going to build a house. We are keeping the Banyandah. The boys are in school studying their last 2-3 years. They want to go to university. Jack is now writing his book. Big hugs & kisses from us all. (via Franz Langner, DJ9ZB)

HERE'S A NEAT GIFT IDEA

When we first saw the Casio PQ-40U Portable World Time Clock, we knew instantly that Ham Radio Bookstore customers would love this one.
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The Competitive Edge

KQ2M
Bob Shohet

12 Balsam Court
Selden, NY 11784

Working Contest DXpeditions.

The fall is an exciting time of year for the contest operator and DXer. With it come an increase in sunspot activity, reduced noise levels on the low bands and a proliferation of interesting paths made possible by the equalization of hours of daylight and darkness across the world equinox.

In the Northeast, late September and early October are marked by good 15 meter European openings (absorption permitting!) and now even an occasional European opening on 10. The equatorial path - YB, VK6, DU is enhanced in the morning and again before sunset on both the low and high bands. What does this mean you say? This means that in a contest with good conditions if you don't take time out to look for these country and zone multipliers you have missed out! By knowing the propagation at your QTH ahead of time, you will know when and where to find these openings; a DX edge will be of great help.

In this column I will focus on preparing for the upcoming CQ WW contests and how to work the DXpedition stations in these contests.

Most hams who like to operate contests get on for a few hours and make a few contacts, usually the louder stations or the more exotic ones they hear. These casual operators make up the bulk of the big scores made by serious operators at big stations. So, what separates the casual operator from the serious operator you ask? Is it the gleaming aluminum antenna farm, the microprocessor controlled antenna-rig switching box, or the 5 rig-operating position? How about the multiple antennas on each band, the single-band amps, or the masochistic obsession to lose sleep for the purpose of exchanging numbers with faceless, nameless voices? No, no, NO! None of that. The difference between the casual operator and the serious operator is that The serious operator has a plan!

The serious operator can be anyone with a tribander, barefoot and only 10 hours in which operate. The serious operator makes his time count. He (or she) knows band conditions for his QTH, his equipment and antennas have been pruned and fixed a week before the contest, he knows what the strengths and weaknesses of his station are on each band, he is equally comfortable running as he is playing "hunt and pounce" for multipliers, he knows what hours he is going to operate and he makes plans to have either no distractions or as few as possible while operating. Screaming kids, a spouse feeling neglected, shopping plans or company can put a serious crimp into operating and enjoying what little time there is to spare. Try to resolve as much as possible before-hand so that you can enjoy the contest free of guilt and/or bad feelings. It is also a good idea to mark the contest weekend on the calendar weeks ahead of time so there is no (HA HA!) chance of being volunteered to visit your spouses' parents or help Al move into his new house.

A week before the contest, start spending time listening to band conditions, following WWV indices at 18 past the hour, and noting who the Dxpedition stations are and where they plan to operate. It also will help if you subscribe to some DX bulletins to be aware of what interesting countries/zones are going to be active. Making a mental note of whether conditions are improving or worsening and tracking solar flux levels will give you a valuable tool in formulating strategy, what bands to operate and when. It will also give you a clue as to what interesting DX paths might open unexpectedly, if absorption is low enough and you are there at the right time. Remember, even though the band might be dead to you, it is open in many other areas of the world, and those stations are operating at the same time you are cursing the gods of propagation. With that thought in mind and a little luck and persistence you may catch a freak opening for some juicy multipliers. A case in point, during the CW WW CW 1986 I was operating single-band 20 meters at W2YV and conditions were awful (So bad that I couldn't run Europe until 2 hours after sunrise!) and I was bored. I was hoping to get an extra few hours sleep since the band was dead. At 0225 I came upstairs to watch TV and eat. I feel asleep but decided to check the bands once again at 0330. At 0343 I worked YBØARA followed by HSØA at 0347, both over a beam heading of 195 degrees. I dozed at the rig and awoke to a dead band at 0415 but heard BY4AA at 0417. At 0424 I worked him. By not sleeping straight-through as had some other single-band friends of mine, I managed to pick up zones 24, 26 & 28 and three countries, two of which I did not hear again for the rest of the contest.

I leave it to you to figure out the best times to remember that the band is always open somewhere.

One of the useful strategies to maximize multipliers is to note frequencies of pileups and enter these into memory. During a lull in the run or when propagation improves you can switch frequency, give a call and hopefully work the multipliers efficiently and rapidly. This is a useful variation on "Split-VFO" technique and is probably most useful for those stations that are not as loud and won't crack the pileup in a few calls. This was how I had to operate when I had a tribander and low dipoles and KT2D has found it useful as well. This method is especially useful for those DX operators who like to go by call area. You can keep him in memory until he gets around to you. Make sure though, that you check these frequencies often as DX stations tend to move around due to QRM, other band openings or a drop in rate.

My last suggestion centers around food, drink and comfort. Meals, snacks etc. should be planned around operating not the other way around. Trying to eat during a good run can be a disaster; messy, rate-lowering and sometimes even dangerous. I have choked on eggs, bagels etc. while trying to keep a high rate on phone. Aside from losing the frequency, and having a voice that sounds like a eunuch with a cold, it is upsetting to not breathe freely while you struggle to work the stations that are calling. I am sure that some DX operators have thought that I was either a complete jerk or I was engaged in some passionate hanky-panky at the microphone. It is embarrassing to say the least. Also, if you must drink something while you are running stations on phone, use a straw. I have had many cups of coffee go cold while I called CQ and QRZ relentlessly during a good hour. It never occurred to me to use a straw until K1RX suggested it while I was operating 20 phone at VP2VCW. Last but not least, knots in your muscles and back are no fun after 30 hours of operating. Design your operating position so that you can sit at it for hours without straining, reaching or twisting and your body will thank you for it. I also recommend a straight-back chair for lower-back support and a swivel chair for those restless hours.

Now that you have the operating position set-up, propagation charted, family out of the house and everything working it is time to work the DX stations and DXpeditions. This might sound easy but not all operators are equal in ability and many are different in style. The first clue is how the operator deals with the pileup before the contest. Does he like to work tail-enders? Does he call CQ after every contact (even though there is a howling pileup!) like Lloyd and Iris Colvin? Does he listen off frequency (low power stations take note)? Does he say U2 or D3? (Up 2 or Down 3 on SSB). Is he listening for US, or Europe or some other area? Will he blacklist if you call out of turn? These are all important things to know. If an operator is working the first station to finish calling you must make very short calls. Don't waste time sending his call first; he already knows what it is and you are being covered up by 100+ other stations. If he is working 150 per hour and you give a long call, you will cause QRM during his contact and that will not endear you to him. If you persist in calling when he says Europe only or the "Station ending in Bravo only" you are a lid if you call and you deserve to be ignored. Remember the DX station has spent lots of time and money to be where he is. He has no obligation to work you or anyone else for that matter. If you are rude, you should be ignored. If you time your call to match his operating style you will eventually be rewarded with a contact and you will have helped to increase his rate, making it possible to work other stations even faster. For those who don't mind antagonizing the DX station, remember that there are many other hams who also want to work him and if

you are being a nuisance or lid, they will remember and give you grief. Grudges have long memories so be the best operator you can and be respected for your skill and finesse rather than despised for your "ignorance".

Some operators realize that there are lots of low-power or modest-antenna stations in a big pile-up that otherwise would not be heard. The 150 kHz wide pile-up on 10 meters SSB when Clipperton was activated in 1978 was a great example. The smart and compassionate operator likes to give the little guys a chance and on CW will listen with his hand on the RIT on the edges of the pile-up just waiting for the weak one to call. When I operated P4/KQ2M and I was saying U2, very often I listened U5 or D2 where I found weak US and Europeans who were either shrewd or desperate enough to take a chance on calling well above or below the pileup. They did and I did and they worked me before the big guns who were having a good time slugging it out at exactly U 2.000.

Tail-ending is a good tool of the serious operator and can cut out a lot of wait time in the pileups if used correctly. Not all DX stations like it however. To some it is like anarchy and creates chaos. They can't handle high rates and must feel that they are in control of every QSO. That's okay, but don't use this technique with them. The sharp DX operator welcomes this because a good tail-end enables him to pick out a call whole with minimal QRM and he can usually work the guy even before some of the stations calling realize what happened!

Ultimately, the success of the DX operation will depend on how much control the operator exerts on the pileup. It is up to the operator to "lay down the law" if things get out of hand, and it is also up to him to identify often enough so that 300 hams aren't kept in suspense until he is in the mood. This works both ways though. A DX station SHOULD NOT be repeatedly pestered to identify or give out QSL information. An operator should be willing to spend a minute or two or three waiting PATIENTLY until this information is given. QSL information for DXpeditions is almost always in DX publications or magazines so there is no reason to ask for this during the contest.

After the contest, if you do decide to QSL or even during the contest if the rate is low, take 5 or 10 seconds to thank the operator for going to that island or country to "put it on" for the world. The operator has done it for you at his expense and a simple thankyou makes the operator feel appreciated and looking forward to activating the next one. An extra postage stamp with your SASE or a "Green Stamp" will go a long way to helping make that next DXpedition possible and has been known to speed up QSL replies as well.

That's it for this month. Remember contesting is supposed to be fun, so knock yourself out and have a good time doing it!

I hope to see all of you from Ecuador for the CQ WW CW Test in November. (C KQ2M)

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GETTING STARTED ON 160 METERS

Riki Kline, 4X4NJ

PURPOSE:

This sheet was prepared to simplify passing on basic information about 160 meters. Please copy this and pass it on - especially to amateurs in countries that are not active on the top band.

DX CAPABILITY AND GENERAL REMARKS:

Some stations have worked over 200 DXCC countries, WAS (from Europe), and 40 WAZ zones. 160 DXers include many who have "done it all" on the other bands. Because of their usual courtesy, the band is still called "The Gentleman's Band".

FREQUENCIES:

Most of the activity is in the 1810 to 1850 kHz range. If authorities will allow only a smaller portion, then it is best to try to get 1820-1840 kHz, or perhaps 1820-1835 kHz, with the most powerful segment currently 1830-1835 kHz. The best spot frequency would be 1832 kHz. Some amateurs have succeeded in getting special permission for DX contests - this usually follows with full permission to operate on 160 meters after several years of operation with no interference problems with other services, etc.

TIMES:

The first condition for QSO is that a path of darkness exists between the station. In addition, there are several times when conditions are to peak. There are two peaks associated with the eastern end of the path. The first is about 1 1/2 to 2 hours before sunrise and the second is from about 20 minutes before to 10 minutes past sunrise. Similarly, there is a second peak associated with the Western sunset which has been noted from about 10 minutes before sunset to 20 minutes afterwards. For long North-South paths, an hour which places local midnight near the midpoint of the path is often best. There are several computer programs available for calculating sunrise/sunset times around the world. ON4UN publishes a book compiling these, and the "THE DX EDGE" is a handy slide-rule device for this purpose which is advertised in QST and other publications.

SEASONS:

Winter is best for QSOs between stations in the same (Northern or Southern) hemispheres. Fall and Spring are best for "long haul" paths between Northern and Southern hemispheres. The band is usually more noisy in the summer, but occasionally good openings and quiet days occur.

ANTENNAS:

Separate receiving and transmitting antennas are usually required. Vertical antennas give good low-angle radiation for DX and are usually far superior for transmitting. Horizontal antennas give low-noise receiving performance and need not be higher than 6 feet or so above the ground. Specifically recommended is the W1BB "Inverted L" for transmitting. This consists of approximately 52 meters of wire with as much as possible being vertical (at lest 10 or 15 meters should be vertical, but the more the better). The rest of the wire is stretched out in any convenient manner with slight directivity obtained in the direction of the outstretched wire. This wire is fed at the bottom of the vertical portion by 50 ohm coaxial cable through a series capacitor of 500 to 800 pF. Since the feed point is a low voltage point, an old 3 section BC receiving type (air) variable capacitor works fine (with sections in parallel). The shield of the coax should be connected to a ground system of radials, pipes and other buried objects. Try to use as many radials as possible. They may be short, but try for at least for a few of 40 meters or more length which may be bent as necessary (and work fine just laying on the ground). The series capacitor and wire length should be adjusted to give best VSWR at the operating frequency. For receiving, a low dipole which may be bent as necessary, is excellent. Full-size, would be approximately 80 meters long, but since this is only for receiving, the length is not critical, and height is not important for receiving. If space permits, the "Beverage" is the best receiving antenna and is described in most good antenna books.

RECEIVING ACCESSORIES:

An overall bandwidth, on CW, of 30 to 90 Hertz is most helpful and is usually obtained by adding an external audio filter in the headphone line to a receiver with an IF selectivity of 250-500 Hertz (or less). An attenuator and filters in the antenna input of the receiver, help to minimize the problems caused by strong adjacent signals (commonly in the medium wave broadcast band).

DX INFORMATION:

"Radiosporting Magazine" (VE3BMV/W2 editor, Box 282, Pine Brook, NJ 07058-0282) and "Canadian Top Band News" (VE3INQ) are excellent sources for long-range and general information. Watch the ARRL DX Bulletin for more current "about to happen" information (see QST for times and frequencies). The best source for the latest news, coordinating schedules, and keeping in touch with leading 160 meter DXers is on the "160 Meter DX Information Net" on Saturdays at 1400 GMT on 14.339 MHz (+,- QRM). (4X4NJ)

Mark IRSA - Radiosporting WRC Contest on your calendar - second weekend of October. Phone - starts Saturday 0000 GMT, CW - Sunday, 2400 hour periods. High/Low power, QRP, SWL and monoband categories. Send SASE for complete contest kit containing rules, log, dupe, summary and multiplier sheets to: Radiosporting, Box 282, Pine Brook NJ 07058

WHAT WE WANT FROM A DXPEDITION

Daniel Robbins, KL7Y

Working a DXpedition is often quite difficult, so DXers take steps to reduce this difficulty. Some steps, like enormous beams and huge towers, are obvious, while other steps such as precision tail-ending aren't always so readily apparent. Still, these are steps taken at the caller's end, and there is another side to DX contacts. It seems as if many DXpeditions aren't aware that they can also take steps to ease the chores of those in the pileup. When the Alaska DX Association was preparing for the DXpedition to the Pribilof Islands there was a lot of consideration of what we could do to improve the chances for those who would be calling. (As an aside, the country status of the Pribilofs is still tabled before the ARRL Board of Directors. If interested, you might contact your Director.) While there will always be differences of opinions on how to improve a DXpedition, a few ideas did seem to acquire common agreement.

First off, tailor the DXpedition for a set of goals. If you are putting out a very rare spot, the obvious goal is to work as many as possible. If you travel to a more common country, it might be better to sacrifice some number of QSOs for more unusual QSOs. As an example, consider a DXpedition to VP2E. Certainly you can run stateside for hours from Anguilla, but it might be more interesting, say, to concentrate on the low bands, to work CW or RTTY or satellite, or even to try and work those areas of the world (such as Japan in this case) which normally have a much tougher time working your area. If you will be using more than one transmitter, you might consider leaving one on 20 meters all the time the band even hints of being open. Let the other rigs take up the slack for the 5 or 6 band DXCC chasers. That way, all areas of the world should be able to catch you at least on 20, and a lot of little guys will probably pick up a new one overall, while the big boys hunt on the other bands.

Another step in making a DXpedition easy to work is to give out advance information. While surprises are nice, a well-planned DXpedition should serve notice to the DXing world beforehand (if at all possible). Location of operation, duration of stay, frequencies/modes of operation, QSL route, operators, etc., are all important. Also, you should cite your DXpedition goals: "A CW only DXpedition," or "Multi-multi, all bands and modes," or even, "...just a couple of guys on vacation with a little time to operate the radio from a foreign country." Not only will releasing information let DXers know when and where to look for you, it will cut down on those too often repeated questions (ie., "What's the QSL info?") which do nothing but take unnecessary time.

When on a DXpedition the general rule is to make QSOs. Sometimes tempers flare when callers do strange things. There will always be a few guys that will rile even the most ardent pacifist. So try and remember to keep your cool. You can argue with guys over and over and it still won't do any good. So save your breath (or fist), just put the lid in the log and go on to the next caller. You went on a DXpedition to make QSOs - so do it. If you want to stop and argue with every guy who commits a pileup faux pas, then stay home! Your job is to generate QSOs, not arguments.

If a DXpedition occurs from a very rare spot, there should be an attempt to work all areas of the world. Not to work all areas of the world equally, but to let all areas at least have a chance. It is not enough to just occasionally standby for areas outside of the main opening, but to also realize what time and what bands are best for rarer parts of the world. Here in Alaska we often miss African and Indian Ocean DXpeditions because they are not on the right band at the right time for propagation between us. When we have an opening on 40, they are on 20; when 20 does open that way, the DXpedition has moved on to 15 or 10. I know the problem is not unique to Alaska, either. Europeans have trouble with the South Pacific, for example, and the East Coast of the USA often misses stuff in Southeast Asia. DXpeditions to much-needed locales should garner information about propagation in advance if possible, and use that knowledge to give all areas of the world a chance. Or to paraphrase an old DX lament, "If I hear a DXpedition banging in for hours on end and I can't work him, then it's my fault. If I can't hear the DXpedition at all, then it's his fault!"

And this leads to a final DXpedition necessity: Be as loud as you can. Not only will this let you work more stations (because more hear you), but it will allow you to effectively communicate with the pileup. Despite appearances, most hams in the pileups will follow your directions if they can hear you. If you say up twenty and are so weak that no one can hear you, then everyone will still call on your frequency. If you are loud enough then the pileup will obey (as long as those calling feel your instructions are bona fide). If the pileup is under control, then the rate goes up tremendously. To acquire that sweet machine-gun roll of stations the DX has to establish some order, and that is only possible if the callers can hear you. (This is also why split operation is almost mandatory for any serious operation.) Make it easy for them to hear you and they will make it easier on you with less calling out of turn, less jamming on your frequency, less "insurance" contacts, and less repeats. Small amps like SB-200's or FL-2100's will greatly improve signals without a great weight or space penalty. Lacking more power, consider better antennas or higher antennas. Any effort expended in improving the DXpedition signal will make it a better DXpedition and make the operating easier at both ends.

Certainly one could go into more detail on what makes a good DXpedition even better, but more important is the idea that a few simple guidelines can turn a potentially disastrous DXpedition into at least an acceptable one. A DXpedition is usually a scarce commodity and will always attract callers, no matter how poor the DXpedition. Hence, the ability to generate a pileup is no measure of the quality of that DXpedition. Rather, the "work-ability" of the DXpedition is paramount in the minds of those calling. And the easier the DXpedition makes it on those calling, the easier it is on those being called. Hence, more DX with less frustration. And that is a step we all would like to make. ●

Little Pistols
The Competitive Small Station

WB9TBU
Paula Franke

PO Box 873
Beecher, IL 60401

QRP Contests

Ah, the unmistakable signs of autumn! The leaves are starting to turn color, wood to split for winter, checking all the connections on the antennas and prepping the shack for the oncoming contest season. So much to get done before the cold weather gets here.

What is there for the QRPer to keep him or her occupied through the winter months ahead? Plenty! In addition to the "big time" contests (many of which include a QRP category, including the Radiosporting WRC championship), there are a number of QRP contests coming up. The following is a generic set of rules that will apply to all contests sponsored by the QRP ARCI. Passages marked "**homebrew" apply to the Homebrew Sprints.

GENERIC QRP ARCI CONTEST RULES:

EXCHANGE:

member: RST, state/province/country (s/p/c), ARCI number; non-member: RST, state/province/country, power out.

**homebrew sprints: RST suffixed with 'HB' or 'C' indicating homebrew or commercial equipment. If homebrew gear is used (receiver, transmitter, or transceiver), use 'HB' on all RST exchanges.

POINTS:

member: 5 points; non-member, different continent: 4 points; non-member: 2 points

**homebrew sprints: if station worked is using homebrew, add 5 points (i.e.: non-member using homebrew: 2 + 5 = 7 points)

MULTIPLIER:

s/p/c total all bands; the same station may be worked on more than one band for points and s/p/c credit.

BONUS POINTS

for homebrew sprints, spring and fall QSO parties:

+ 200 for each band HB TX used
+ 300 for each band HB RX used
+ 500 for each band HB TCVR used
(max. of 500/band)

POWER SUPPLY MULTIPLIER:

x 1.0 commercial power
x 1.5 battery
x 2.0 solar/natural, or battery charged only by solar or natural power within 48 preceding the contest.

POWER MULTIPLIER:

x 0: over 5 watts (check log)
x 2: 4 to 5 watts
x 4: 3 to 4 watts
x 6: 2 to 3 watts
x 8: 1 to 2 watts
x10: less than 1 watt

SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES:

	CW		PHONE
160m -	1810		
80m -	3560,	3710	3985
40m -	7040,	7110	7285
20m -	14060		14285
15m -	21060,	21110	21285
10m -	28060,	28110	28885
6m -	50060		50385

SCORING:

SCORE = POINTS x SPC x PWR MULT x PWR SUPPLY MULT + BONUS

Entry may be as all-band entry, or as single band entry, competing against own class of entry. Certificates to the top ten scores over-all, and to the top score in each band for single-band competitors. Certificates will be issued to the top score in each s/p/c and class in which two or more entries are received. Single band entries apply only to the homebrew sprints and the spring and fall QSO parties.

Entry includes a copy of the logs and a separate summary sheet. All entries must be post-marked 30 days following the end of the contest. Late entries will be counted as check-logs. Members indicate their membership number on all logs. Members and non-members indicate their input or output power for each entry. The highest output power level used will determine the power multiplier. Output power is considered as 1/2 of the input power.

Include a description of homebrew equipment, commercial equipment and antennas used with each entry.

A summary sheet and sample log sheets are available from the contest manager for an SASE with one unit of postage.

Include an SASE with one unit of postage with the entry for a copy of the contest results. Results will be published in the next issue of the QRP ARCI Quarterly.

Send entries to:
Red Reynolds K5VOL
QRP ARCI Contest Chairman
835 Surryse Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047 USA

HOMEBREW BONUS POINTS - QRP ARCI Contest / Sprints

HOMEBREW DEFINITION

In the Homebrew sprints and the spring and fall QSO parties, bonus points are allowed for homebrew equipment. homebrew for bonus points includes transmitters, receivers and transceivers only.

For the purposes of qualifying for bonus point status, the equipment must meet one of the following criteria to be considered 'homebrew':

1. Completely home constructed gear, original design or a copy of another's design and NOT a kit.

2. 'Kits' which do not include, or have available, a step- by-step construction manual (i.e. not a Heathkit).

3. Kits (such as Heathkit) or commercial gear that contains a major modification to improve, or alter significantly, its performance. Examples include redesigned front-ends, alteration of one band for another band, or complete repackaging and modification involving a change in use such as home-based to portability. Cosmetic changes such as adding dial lights, commercial filters and larger control knobs do not qualify.

The final decision as to homebrew qualification rests with the contest chairman.

UPCOMING CONTEST DATES:

General Contest Rules apply to each of these contests.

QRP ARCI FALL QSO PARTY:
1200Z October 17 through 2400Z October 18, 1987 (24 hours maximum)

QRP ARCI HOLIDAY SPIRITS HOMEBREW SPRINT - CW:
December 13, 1987, 2000Z through 2400Z

QRP ARCI WINTER FIRESIDE SPRINT - PHONE:
January 10, 1988, 2000Z through 2400Z

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MICHIGAN QRP CLUB 8TH ANNUAL CW CONTEST
1200Z January 16 through 2359Z January 17, 1988
Rules next issue. (WB9TBU)

USSR - Canada Arctic Expedition

This expedition accross the arctic will start from Cape Artichevski over the North Pole, and end in Canada at Cape Columbia on foot. Communication will be carried out by amateur radio.

This expedition will use Soviet made, crystal controlled transceivers running 10 W output, on 80, 40 and 20 meter amateur bands. Antennas will be inverted Vees mounted on "stacked" - screwed together ski poles. The expedition should start in February, lasting for about three months, just as twilight starts. Expeditioners will travel on skis and when necessary, will use inflatable boats over the open water.

There will be two communication bases on Canadian soil in VE8 area, zone 2, with a possibility of special callsigns. Canadian Radio Relay League and Barry Garrat, VE3CDX are coordinating the operation from the Canadian side. A number of top Canadian contest operators will take two week turns to operate the base stations. Considerable activity is planned especially on low bands, schedule permitting. If you need zone 2 on low bands, this would be your chance. (VE3CDX)

Say You Saw It In Radiosporting

SWL Corner

Listening from 10 kHz to 1.3 GHz

W2XQ
Tom Sundstrom

PO Box 2275
Vincentown, NJ 08088-2275

DX shows

The international shortwave broadcast bands are populated by voices from many different countries. The news and editorials attract many listeners but another category of shows draw a large audience. These are the DX shows, containing information on schedule and frequency changes, new stations, and information on the listening hobby in general. Some shows are little more than a front for a "membership club" or other mechanism to gather large amounts of reception reports. Other DX shows contain interesting information week after week. Let's take a look at some of the better ones. All days and times are adjusted to UTC, frequencies are in kHz.

AUSTRALIA:

"Talkback" covers the electronic media front in Australia and the south Pacific area. Recent features included the closing of the domestic shortwave radio stations and Australia's first communications satellite. The best times to hear this 20-minute show in NA are Sundays at 0310 on 17795, 15320, 15240, and 15160, and later the same morning at 1240 on 9580.

CANADA:

Radio Canada International's 25-minute "SWL Digest" continually shows at or near the top of the DX show popularity poll. Ian McFarland mixes up the topics with electronic media news from Canada, reviews of receivers by Larry Magne of Radio Database International, news from the Association of North American Radio Clubs and the European DX Council, and weekly DX tips from Glenn Hauser. Glenn delivers his 6 minutes of material at a rapid pace, so it is best to have a tape recorder running. Sundays: 0005 (0105 once standard time comes into effect) on 9755 and 5960 and 2305 on 11730 and 9755. Saturdays: 2105 on 15325, 11945, 7130 and 5995; 2135 on 17820, 15150 and 11880. Even though the Saturday broadcasts are to Europe and Africa, respectively, usually at least one or two signals are decent on backscatter.

JAPAN:

"DX Corner" offers a perspective of SWLing in Asia, mixing recent loggings by Japanese SWLs with mini-features. The Canadian relay of Radio Japan offers the best signals: Sundays at 1129 on 6120 and Monday at 0329 on 5960.

NETHERLANDS:

Jonathan Marks is the host of Radio Nederland's "Media Network," a popular electronic media journal that covers a host of subject matter. Features are mixed with current, topical stories such as the recent Radio Newyork International pirate radio station. Media Network does not regularly cover DX tips as does Canada and Sweden. Best times in NA: Fridays 0250 on 9895, 9590, 6165 and 6020; 0550 on 9715 and 6165.

SWEDEN:

George Wood hosts the longest running DX show on radio today. "Sweden Calling DXers" mixes short features, a computer corner (usually related to using computers with telephone and packet bulletin board systems), and DX tips. Information is current and reliable. George is active in Hamnet on Compuserve and prepares an electronic version of the SCDX newsletter for distribution on CompuServe and other telephone and amateur radio packet BBSs around the country. If you are not on Compuserve, but have a telephone modem in your computer, you'll find the electronic current SCDX bulletin (and recent back issues) on the Pinelands RBBS. To NA: Tuesdays at 1405 on 15345 and 2310 on 11705 and 9695, Wednesday at 0235 on 9695.

USA:

"World of Radio" is a half-hour show mixing features, some based upon clippings from printed matter sent in by listeners, and DX listening tips. Glenn Hauser, who edits a column for an SWL club bulletin and also prepares a piece for Canada's "SWL Digest," prepares and hosts this show. It is aired on a very few PBS FM stations in the United States, but its main outlet is WRNO in New Orleans. Sunday 2000 (after NFL football) on 11965, Friday 0200 on 7355, Saturday 0300 on 6185 and 2330 on 9495. If you don't find it after the change to standard time, look for it an hour later. WRNO may also delay the show from time to time if there is a football game in progress.

Some broadcast schedule information:

CHINA:

Radio Beijing changed some frequencies for one-hour broadcasts to Eastern NA, at 0000 UTC on 15455 and at 1100 and 1200 on 11855 kHz.

NORTH KOREA:

Radio Pyongyang changed frequencies at 1100 UTC, now on 11735 and 6576 kHz. No changes at 1200 UTC, on 9977 and 9600 kHz.

PAKISTAN:

Radio Pakistan can be heard in its World Service on 15605, peaking around 1100-1200 UT. Later, on 15605, news in regular English is at 1600 and news in slow-speed English follows at 1615 to 1630 sign-off. The World Service resumes at 1630 and can be heard on 11570, but the signal worsens as the afternoon wears on.

SYRIA:

Damascus changed some frequencies. They are now running two 1-hour English broadcasts at 2005 and 2105 on 12085 and 11625. The latter frequency is usually the better of the two.

RTTY

Shifting from shortwave broadcast information for a moment, another type of signal found on the bands are the myriad of teletype signals. Commercial teletype signals include coastal and aero stations, point-to-point telegraphy, and press services. Do you have a packet radio controller that contains RTTY capabilities, such as the AEA PK-232 or the PK-64? If you do, try some of these press teletype services.

CHINA:

XINHUA, from Beijing, usually has a good signal on 16136 with English news noted between 1100 and 1300. Set your equipment to 50 baud (66 words-per-minute), 425 shift. Flip the Normal/Reverse shift to find the proper setting for your equipment.

CUBA:

TASS (from Moscow) relays English press material through two Cuban relays on 16348 and 14901, both at 50 baud and 425 shift. These powerful signals can be found every day from 1200 or so to beyond 1600 and sometimes 2000 UT.

FRANCE:

From 1400 or 1500 to beyond 1700, AFP from Paris runs English news on 15977 at 50 baud, 340 shift. Up on 15978.4, AFP runs the news in French.

MOROCCO:

MAP, Rabat, runs English news at 50 baud, 425 shift, on 16134.2 from 1100 or 1200 to at least 1400 UTC. This news covers the African continent and the signal is usually excellent.

You'll find most of the teletype press activity on the higher bands in the hours after sunrise to mid-day. Whereas the amateur teletype is usually 45 baud, 170 shift, most of the press teletype is 50 baud, 425 shift. In the past two months, we've noted press services from the USSR, France, China, Morocco, Cuba, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Poland and other countries. In addition to English, French is widely used. You will also find some Arabic- and German-language transmissions.

Follow-up

The new Algerian broadcaster on 153 kHz, noted in the last column, is reported to be Tipaza. This is a move from 254 kHz, and the

World Radio TV Handbook listed the power on 254 kHz as 1500 kw except 1800-0600 when it drops to 750 kw.

Publications

Incidentally, there are two major, annual publications for the SWL interested in international broadcasting: the World Radio TV Handbook (WRTH) and Radio Database International (RDI). New editions are released around the end of each calendar year. We'll talk about them in detail in a future column. In the meantime you can get information on the 1988 editions from a variety of amateur radio stores and SWL-oriented outlets, including Gilfer Shortwave, 52 Park Avenue, Park Ridge, NJ 07656, 1-201-391-7887.

Mailbag

We received a nice note from John Nicholson, K7FD, of Waldport, Oregon, welcoming us to RADIOSPORTING. John reminisces about the tube gear that he could not afford as a youngster. Now he finds this vintage gear at local hamfests and restores them. His pride and joy is a mint condition Hammarlund HQ-180A with a matching speaker. Favorite stations include Radio Australia and Radio New Zealand, and especially Tahiti on 15170 and 11825 kHz with native south-sea island music. John, thanks for the comments. Your notes on tube equipment take me back a few years.

Whereas your first receiver was a Knight-kit Star Roamer, I started SWLing in 1952 with a 1942-vintage original Hallicrafters S-38. A few years later I picked up a Hammarlund HQ-150 which stayed with me into the mid-70s, and other Hammarlunds drifted through the radio room over the next 20 years. At one point I probably had six receivers around, including the HQ-120, HQ-129X, and HQ-140 and a Hallicrafters 8R40 on which we listened to Sputnik on 40 MHz. The Drake SPR-4 stayed around the shack until 1984 or so, then an ICOM R-71A came to stay a while. The current receiver setup is the Japan Radio Company NRD-525, an Info-Tech M-6000 multi-mode RTTY/TDM/AMTOR/CW code reader and Info-Tech M-610 RTTY scope.

Conclusion

This month, we focused on some of the popular DX shows aired by international broadcasters and identified some English-language press teletype outlets. We also detailed some frequency changes of broadcasters around the world and suggested you acquire the 1988 editions of the WRTH and RDI. In future columns we'll look at some of the SWL clubs, their bulletins, and other printed resources available that help you identify what you are listening to.

Let me know what you hear. (W2XQ)

To list or not to list

John Devoldere, ON4UN

In my search for skeds with new countries on top band I have been listening a lot on 20 meters. I have been amazed at the number of nets on that band. While the band sounds almost dead, there are a number of "nets" (a few between 14175 and 14190) where some good DX is hanging around. Instead of each of them working DX stations by themselves and each on a different frequency (like in the good old days when DXing still was a challenge), they sit there and wait until some net control brings them a QSO (??) on a silver platter. The net serves a red carpet... Some of those net controls don't even allow you to make a proper QSO, and start relaying things (it's good for their ego trips!). Ugh!!!

More ego trips

One night I was listening to a YU4 station on 80 m working North America. At one time he was called by XE1OH. He came back to him as W1... and gives him a 59 report. He comments on the strong signal and signs without having copied his call or anything even close to his call. When I break in to give him the call, his comment is "You are closer to XE, that's why you hear him better..." The point is whether you are close or distant does not matter, but when it takes you several repeats to even get the call (or if you need a relay to get the call), a Q3 or Q4 at best is in order. One minute later a VE1 is calling him, and he returns a W1 call with 59 plus 20 report... When he is being called by a W7 from Arizona, he does not hear him. Next AD3V calls him. His replay is "what?" When he asks the W3 which antenna he is using, and gets a prompt answer, the replay is "please repeat." One second later the comment from the same YU is "You have a tremendous signal, 20 dB over S9, I thought you were my neighbor"... None of the information that the AD3 station gave him was copied on the first try!... Really funny... I guess that is one way of building up an image of being a "good" DXer. Maybe it works with some of the newcomers. But it really is ridiculous. (ON4UN)

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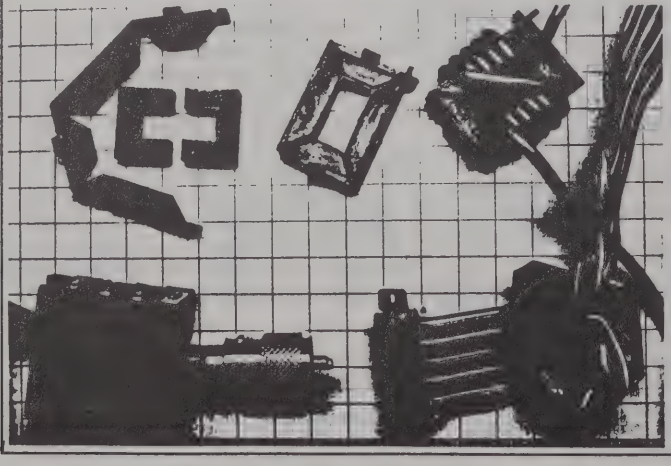

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Cushcraft 40-2CD

(2 element 40 meter Yagi)

Fred Hapengarten, K1VR

This antenna seems to have a good element of magic in it, as good results have been achieved with it in situations where other "shorty-forty" beams have produced less than fully satisfactory results. Each user consulted had good things to say about its performance.

Which is not to say that they all liked all of its construction.

Here then are a few tips on building it. This article was prepared after discussions with several friends, each experienced in assembling the Cushcraft 40-2CD, and based on my own experience in assembling the antenna.

Finally, after writing up the first draft of this article, I consulted the manufacturer. It seems that Cushcraft had heard some of these comments from several sources, and had taken them to heart. Thus, for new 40-2CD's some of these problems have gone away, as new versions are different. Bravo to Cushcraft for listening to field reports!

Capacity Hat formed Aluminum Brackets

(L Brackets) (part #25)

There is a problem with the formed aluminum brackets which hold the capacity hats. This cantilevered holding of the capacity hat allows vibration in the wind. As a result, some capacity hats have eventually cracked and broken, winding up on the ground.

To cure this problem, one could order another set of L brackets, part 157 (quantity: 4), and another set of 1 1/8 inch stainless steel worm clamps, part S-10 (quantity: 4). Be sure to secure the L-brackets with double nuts and star washers. In fact, use star washers in between everything in the L-bracket assembly.

There are two ways to set the L-brackets. In Figure 1, they are set up like a box. In Figure 2, they are set like back to back L's. K5ZD is of the opinion that this is the mechanically superior method, because one will reinforce the other.

But lo, they have been discarded! Cushcraft has changed the design. The latest production models of the antenna have capacity hat elements that are fastened to the loading coils directly, without the use of any brackets (formed aluminum or L). Cushcraft now fastens the capacity hats directly to the loading coils with stainless steel hardware. Each hat element is mounted in separate holes with its own hardware. The position of the capacity hats is defined by the holes provided by the manufacturer. Figure 3 shows how it is done.

Now you have a capacity hat which will stay on the beam.

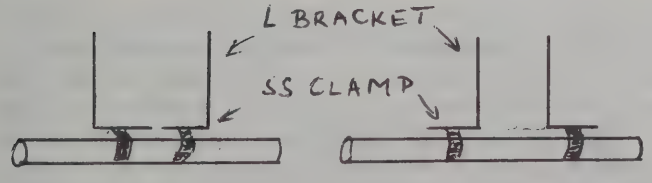


Fig. 1 Fig. 2

Placing the Capacity Hat

When measuring to place the capacity hat, to what point should you now measure? The instructions indicate that you should measure to the capacity hat itself.

How should one pick a frequency for building the antenna with a contester's needs in mind, if a center frequency of 7025 is too low, and 7140 is too high (who needs to go above 7260?)? Look at the C dimension and make it one inch shorter than the CW dimension (which is centered on 7025, remember?). If everything is proportionate, the new center frequency ought to come out to 7100. Use the same calculation on both the reflector and driven element. One local went one inch shorter, using reinforced L brackets, and the new center frequency came out 7090. I went one inch shorter using the new Cushcraft assembly technique (no L brackets), and the center frequency came out--7090, again.

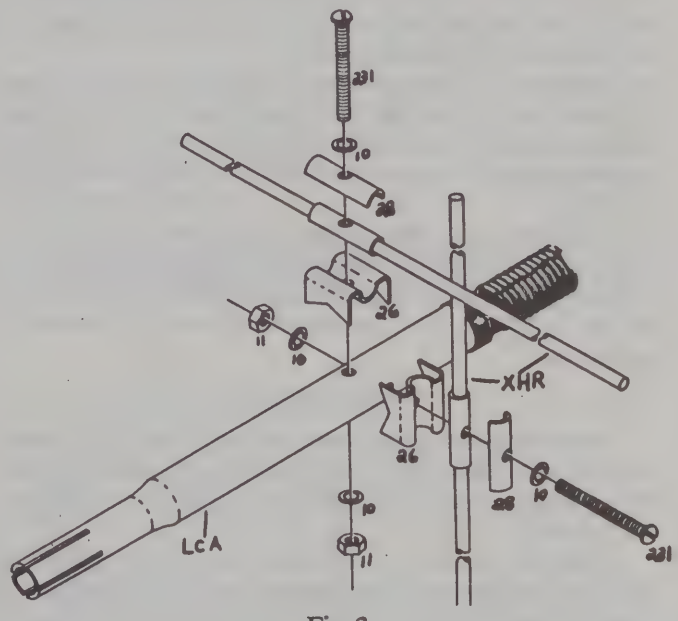


Fig. 3

My SWR, with the antenna erected at 73 feet, and at least 17 feet from the nearest other yagi, is now 1.65:1 at 7000 and 2.0:1 at 7205, which is pleasing. K1IU and K1MEM have

also done the same thing with similar results, for both center frequency and symmetry.

Building this antenna for the CW dimensions puts you in big trouble, if you work both modes, because you'll be way over 3:1 by the time you get up to the phone band.

Reinforcing the Boom

There are people who feel that the boom should be reinforced in the center. They say that perhaps part BC should be longer than 18 inches. If you can do it, use a new part BC, 36 inches long. It should have the same OD and have a thicker wall.

Others have wanted to insert a wooden dowel. You could start with a 2 x 4, or buy a two inch OD dowel at the hardware store. Those who insist on inserting a dowel should be sure it is well soaped before attempting to shove it in place.

However, people who feel that the boom needs reinforcement may well be people who are, perhaps, not using the braces provided by Cushcraft.

Boom Twisting

There have been some complaints of boom twisting on these antennas. To solve the problem, use a single stainless steel self-tapping sheet metal screw (the type commonly used around automotive shops) and insert it somewhere in the overlap of the boom sections.

However, as a result of these complaints, Cushcraft has also modified the design. They now provide pins for the boom at all tubing junctions, putting stainless steel machine screws through the boom. This looks as though it will work out okay.

One other note with respect to the boom. Builders are cautioned to assemble the boom with the reinforced ends of the sections at the ends of the boom. This may be obvious to some, but not to all. The instructions aren't overwhelmingly clear.

The Truss

Some people say that you can replace the tubing truss with aircraft cable. Don't. The tubing approach gives you some side-to-side stability, as well as supporting the weight of the beam.

Some people also try to put the truss on the bottom. Don't. It does not work. The tubing telescopes together, and if you tighten it enough to prevent collapse (or telescoping), then it will bow.

Damping

Put a piece of standard sash cord, regular old cotton (or clothesline), the type with no core, and stuff it in the elements. The easiest way to insert it is to stand the element against the tower and drop in the cord, allowing gravity to do the job.

Good Luck!

Obviously, you should think about how you wish to build this antenna. Don't try to begin both modification and assembly with a plan to erect it the same day.

Nonetheless the operating performance of this antenna, an antenna barely larger than the popular Hy-Gain TH6DXX, makes the effort worth while, especially since the cost of this antenna is so reasonable. (© 1987 K1VR)

T2FD Antenna

Alex Korda, G4FDC

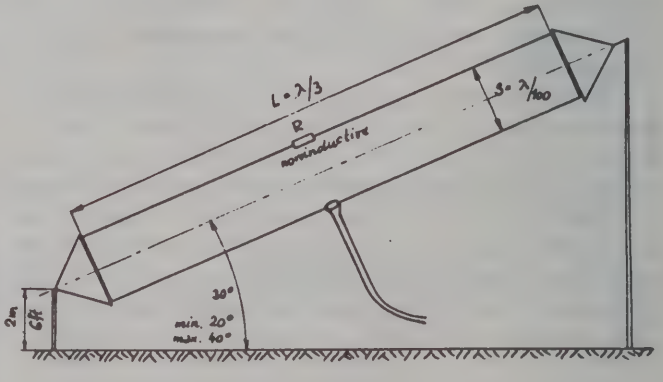
Would you like to have a simple antenna which is multiband, reasonably efficient, omnidirectional, and shorter than the traditional half-wave dipole? Then try the "T2FD" or "TTFD" - a tilted, terminated, folded dipole.

I saw this antenna for the first time in the RSGB publication Amateur Radio Techniques (third edition, p.162). Recently the magazine Ham Radio Today in the June '85 copy (p.29) published G3BDQ's article "Resurrecting the T2FD." I made this antenna for the expedition to Ireland and the Aran Islands. Although the T2FD was supposed to cover only 3.5, 7 and 14 MHz bands it worked satisfactorily on the 21 MHz band.

David, G4OTV, even tried it in the RSGB 21 MHz Contest and worked stations I could hardly hear, though he used a superior site for his portable operation. Combined, we have worked almost any part of the globe with 50 watts into the antenna.

The "CQ Magazine" in its August, '85 copy (p.42) also published an article titled "The T2FD Antenna Revisited." Now follows a condensed report on this interesting antenna.

The theory how this antenna works is unclear with different explanations by different authors. This antenna was apparently developed in the 1940s by the US Navy and used at a Naval Station in California where it outperformed Marconi type antennas. Later, it was used by commercial stations and gradually disappeared. In the late 1970s it gained popularity with German amateurs but the excitement later died down.



This is an aperiodic (non resonant) antenna which looks like a folded dipole with a resistor in the middle of the upper wire. It will operate across a 4:1 frequency range with very low SWR (Standing Wave Ratio). It means, if cut for 3.5 MHz the T2FD will operate up to and including the 14 MHz band. When cut for the 7 MHz band, it will cover frequencies from 7 through 28 MHz, including the new WARC band allocations. It would be worth trying to cut it for the 14 MHz band to see how it behaves on the 50 MHz band.

The termination resistor must be non-inductive and between 390 and 410 ohms when the antenna is fed with 300 ohm ribbon. For CW and SSB operation the resistor rating must be at least 1/4 of the transmitter output power. For the constant carrier modes (AM, FM and RTTY) the rating must be at least 1/3 of the transmitters output power. It is possible to combine resistors in parallel or series-parallel to obtain the required wattage.

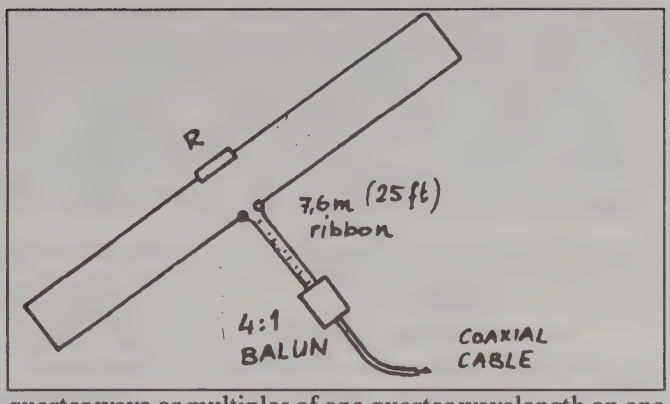
Dimensions:

f [MHz]	1.8	3.5	7	10	14
L [m]	55.56	28.57	14.29	10.00	7.14
L (ft)	179'4"	93'8"	46'10"	32'10"	23'5"
S [m]	1.67	0.86	0.43	0.30	0.22
S [ft]	5'4"	2'10"	1'4"	11"	8.5"

If a DX operation is contemplated, the T2FD must slope at between 20 and 40 degrees from the horizontal in order to utilize the low angle radiation pattern. When used in a horizontal position, the T2FD behaves like an ordinary dipole.

Feedpoint impedance	Termination R
600	650 - 670
450	500 - 520
300	390 - 410

The feeding of this antenna can be accomplished in three different ways. In each case do not forget the standard practice, and lead the feeder away from the feed-point under a right angle to the antenna wires for at least 5 meters (16 feet) distance. Avoid any resonant lengths such as one



quarter wave or multiples of one quarter wavelength on one of the bands to be used.

The 300 ohm ribbon feeder can be brought straight in to the antenna tuning unit (Fig. 1). The ribbon feeder can also be terminated in a 4:1 balun/transformer which in turn is connected to the transceiver via coaxial cable. Alternatively, one can use coaxial cable as the feeder all the way to the antenna and connect it via a 6:1 balun.

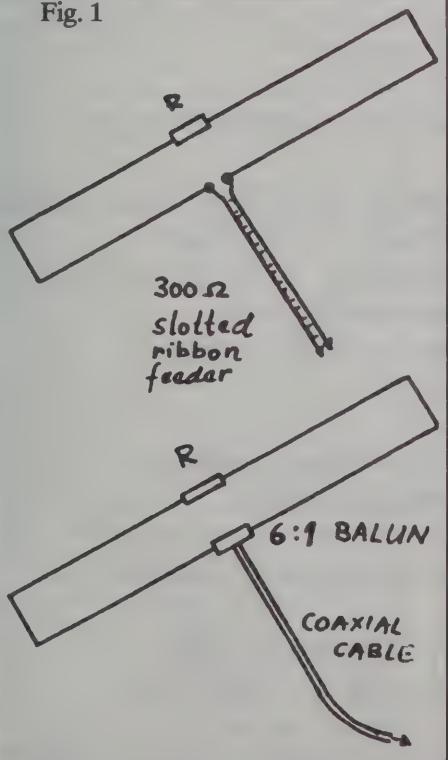
Also attach a 1/4 wavelength of wire for each band used to the grounding point of an antenna tuning unit or the transceiver as a counterpoise.

Although about 35% of the input power to the antenna is lost in the resistor, it represents only about 2 dB power.

However, do not take much notice of the losses. Look for what you gain: multiband antenna, short length, and when used with the balun, instant band change and low SWR. A short wave listener can use a small 1/2 watt resistor for termination. (G4FDC)

It pays to advertise in Radiosporting - you will reach the most active hams in shortest time.

Fig. 1



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Product Reviews

THE JERSEY CITY KEYER

Robert E. Naumann, KR2J

The Jersey City Keyer from Alpine Consulting Associates allows you to use your PC or clone as sophisticated CW keyer.

FEATURES...

CW may be sent at speeds of 5 to 40 WPM via keyboard entry. One hundred operator programmable messages are available at the touch of a key on your keyboard. These messages are grouped in "banks" of ten to allow you to organize them according to your different operating needs. You may name each bank with an appropriate title like "Casual DXing" or "Sweepstakes." A one line keyboard buffer allows you to "type ahead" while copying from another station.

For the serious contester, many functions not previously available in other keyers are included to make your operation more flexible and efficient. Automatic branching from one memory to another virtually eliminates manual entry of characters other than callsigns. This includes sending of serial numbers needed in many contests. Pauses to listen for calls after sending CQ can be programmed easily. One of the many unique capabilities of this keyer allows you to simply type the call of the station calling you during this pause and press the enter key to automatically send your report to him. After you copy your reply you can tap any key on the keyboard to send TU and QRZ. The keyer will then pause. If you don't type another callsign within a user preset pause the keyer will go back to calling CQ and begin the whole process again.

For the DXer, preprogrammed messages will greatly reduce fatigue in pileups. You can set up messages with your callsign so you can tap a single key every time you want to "dump" in your call. You can call CQ then listen for a reply. When a station calls, his callsign and RST can be placed in one of the ten temporary "registers." The keyer will then automatically insert the callsign and RST in the appropriate place in your pre-programmed message. Of course, you could just type in whatever you would like to send manually.

Traffic handlers will find the "JC Keyer" a useful tool in CW traffic net operation. Net control stations can pre-program net call ups in a bank of memories. Just press a function key and call the net to order while taking care of necessary paperwork. Error free message sending is easy with the "Send File" function. Using any text editor to format a message off the air or while copying a message on a phone or CW net. You can send the message at any time exactly as you have typed it.

Volunteer Examiners will be able to use one of the most unusual capabilities of the "JC Keyer." In training classes the keyer will generate random character groups, random words, or a random QSO for code practice at any speed from 5 to 40 WPM. After your students are ready for their code test the "JC Keyer" will generate a random QSO meeting FCC requirements for CW qualification. If you are testing individually, the applicant could sit in front of the screen to answer questions and be graded automatically. If tests are administered in a group, tests for each applicant can be automatically printed on paper and handed out. A master sheet with the correct answers is also automatically printed for the examiner to use while grading the tests.

References of Q-signals, common CW abbreviations, and most often used ARRL numbered message texts are included in "pop-up" screen displays.

KEYBOARD AND DISPLAY...

The keyboard uses all letters and numbers as they appear on the keys themselves. Punctuation is also included. Other keys are used for sending special characters such as "BT", "AS", and "AR." The bank of memories currently in use is accessed with the "function" keys F1 through F10. In manual keying mode either shift key may be used as a straight key to facilitate tune-up etc. A paddle may be connected for manual iambic sending if desired.

The screen shows you what you are sending whether by keyboard entry or through memory transmission. At the bottom of the screen is the status line. The status line shows the memory bank selected, the port used to connect your transmitter, the speaker on/off condi-

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  - Pause until key pressed
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  - Goto
  - If–Then–Else construct
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tion, the relative value of the tone heard through the speaker, and finally a real time clock (useful for logging accurately).

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS...

The Jersey City Keyer will run on any PC or compatible system with at least 256k memory and at least one floppy disk drive. A monochrome or color monitor may be used. To connect a transmitter to the computer requires a serial (RS-232) port. An interface cable is available for this from ACA. The cable will allow keying any transmitter with positive or negative keying. The interface cable will also allow connection of an external paddle.

OBSERVATIONS...

I have been using the program with my Telex 1186 compatible computer and my Kenwood TS-830S transceiver mostly on 40 meters. I have been working DX and ragchewing and have found the keyer program to be a great addition to my shack. ACA has done a remarkable job of including many features needed in any type of CW operation. I can't wait for the DX contest season to begin enjoying the power of the Jersey City Keyer.

Alpine Consulting Associates can be reached at 103 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, NJ, 07432. The price of the keyer is $49.95.

(KR2J)

Superfast Morse Code Supereasy

Yuri Blanarovich, VE3BMV

I was very curious of what this superthing can do. It was too late for me, but I wanted to see if my two junior operators can benefit from this learn Morse code quick scheme.

The cassette has voice recording of a letter followed by sound of the morse code letter. They are all mixed together (whole alphabet) and lessons are recorded at various speeds. The first thing that hit me was annoying hum on the audio, the second thing was the unnaturally high pitched tone of the code oscillator, the third was the poor quality of the morse code recording, obviously done with a tape recorder using automatic volume control - causing mushy sounding signals. I tried the tape on my XYL and both juniors (11 and 13 years old). After about 45 minutes of listening to the tape in a car they hardly picked one letter.

The second side of the cassette is supposed to contain morse code lessons overlaid on the "soothing" sound of ocean waves. Supposedly sublimal way of learning the code. I could not hear a single letter in the waves. The waves itself sounded more white noise on 160 m band. My pupils could not stand this "soothing" sound for more than three minutes. So much for supereasy morse code.

This method has the emphasis on sending rather than receiving. We all know that once we learn to receive, sending is a matter of few hours of practicing on the key or keyer. One has to learn to hear and write or receive into "memory." This association can be properly developed only by listening and writing, without "thinking." It is a subconcious function that can be accuired only by doing it and doing right!

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NEWS ! A C-64 VERSION WILL BE AVAILABLE EARLY IN 1988 - WATCH FOR DETAILS

Thinking back, how I was trained by Czechoslovakian Army experts for my ham radio license and how I trained my students at the IBM Toronto Radio Club classes, I can't help but conclude that there is no magic way to acquire morse code skills, there is only the good old way. There are different methods to achieve this, some better some worse, but all those who worked on that "terrible" Morse nuisance in past years since Marconi weren't that stupid.

I checked and bought the ARRL Novice License kit with cassette and this is what my youngsters are using now. Let them sweat it out on their own. You know that own father can't teach his kids to drive, etc. This prompted me to elaborate on the subject of learning the morse code and I will write more about it in the future issues.

Superfast Morse Code Supereasy is available (with money back guarantee) from Bahr, 2549 Temple, Palmbay, FL 32905

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Sailing with Ham Radio

This is a book written by Ian Keith, WA6DNV and Derek Van Loan, WB6VXS and intended as a practical guide for the yachtsman who is interested in installing an amateur radio station aboard his boat. The installation process is covered in detail as are the subjects of antennas and on the air procedure. The presentation of theory is more general. There is a refrence to publications dealing with regulations and licensing. Radiosporting is not listed among them and list of equipment is about three years old. It is a good introductory publication to get sailors interested in radio. Too bad it doesn't explain the magic of DXing and contesting. What else is there to do on the boat anchored by Clipperton Island?

A well written book with illustrations for someone contemplating to get involved in maritime ham radio. Published by Paradise Cay Publications, 1001 Bridgeway #405, Sausalito, CA 94965 (VE3BMV)

DXer's Postal Service

Ron, WP2ADC is running a helpful service for the DXers - he is supplying foreign stamps and mailing information for most of the countries in the world. This is, quite often, a better alternative than sending "green stamps" or IRC. In some countries (like India) citizens are not allowed to hold or receive foreign currency. In some countries post offices do not know what an IRC is. Letters or QSL cards with their own stamps usually have no problems of getting through. Ron's list has the prefix and the name of the country, and the cost of the proper AIR MAIL postage for a letter (10 gram or 1/2 once) to North America in US Dollars.

All orders are shipped the same day. Where stamps are out of stock, money is refunded or stamps back-ordered if requested. Ron keeps an up to date list of postal rates published every month. Send SASE for a sample to the DXers Postal Service, PO Box 8851, Trenton, NJ 08650-0851, USA

(VE3BMV)

Check your label for expiry date!

6 m Corner

KA3B
Harry Schools

1606 S Newkirk St.
Philadelphia, PA 19145

Spring/Summer Review:

The 1987 sporadic-E season will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the finest ever with numerous double-hop openings to Europe, Alaska, Hawaii, Central and South America. To fully chronicle each and every opening is a impossibility as they were too numerous. However, I will try to summarize some of the more interesting events that took place.

1987 ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST

The results from the June VHF contest appeared in the September issue of QST and the results were nothing short of fantastic. N5CG operating at K5CM in Oklahoma worked an incredible 985 QSO's in 256 grid squares to take top honors as 6 meter single operator. Fourteen single-op stations broke the 500 QSO barrier on 6 as well as many multi-op groups. The top multiplier leaders were KAØNNO in Colorado with 270 (single-op) and K5JL in Oklahoma (multi-op).

Unfortunately, many stations in the United Kingdom were hearing stations in the U.S. from the W4 and W5 call areas with signals well over S-9 but were unable to get their attention due to stateside contest QRM. In addition, statesiders operating near the SSB DX frequency of 50.110 MHz hampered efforts even more. Geoff, GJ4ICD (Jersey) was quoted as saying that W4's and W5's were in at his location for nearly 5 hours. The most potent signals heard were those of N5JHV, ND2X/5 and KD5S. Word had it that Geoff also heard a W7. In spite of the QRM however, QSO's were completed with UK stations. A few statesiders were surprised to have their CQ's answered by CT4KQ in Portugal who has been quite active on 6 meters during the past year.

In the Caribbean area, W6JKV/V2A, VP5D, K1FJM/FM, ZF2BL and others were worked throughout many parts of the states and Canada. KL7NO in Alaska and KH6IAA in Hawaii both had extremely good signals into the midwest. To the best of my knowledge no one worked all 50 states, although many had 49 and 48...not bad for one weekend on the band.

June/July 1987

The first European opening of the sporadic-E season took place on June 5th with repeats on the 6th and 7th. These openings were primarily favoring the northeast with moderate signals. However the "BIG" opening occurred on June 19th after the 17th and 18th witnessed small spurts of activity. On the 19th, WA1OUB (NH) and K1TOL (ME) had a field day putting Europeans in their logs. Both Bob and Lefty worked nearly 100 stations with DX such as PAØXMA, 9H1CG, 9H1BT, F6KBI and stations in Norway. "QST Magazine" reported that later this same evening, NØLL (KS) worked KL7NO, VY1AU and several VE7's. At the same time the Europeans were blasting through, HK1BAU and W6JKV/V2A were coming in from the south. The European opening lasted for almost 3 hours beginning roughly around 1835 UTC.

Although scattered openings to Europe took place in the weeks that followed, July 17th was the next big day. I was at the QTH of AC3T preparing for the CQ WW VHF WPX Contest which was to begin at 0000 UTC on the 18th. As I was getting together my log sheets, I heard G3TKF break the squelch on the IC551D. This was at about 2048 UTC and his signal was 599 plus. I moved up in frequency to 50.180 MHz. to avoid the QRM and worked 25 Europeans: 19G's, 5 GW's and EI9BG. This opening was accompanied by very good backscatter signals from W1 and VE1 as I could hear stations in these call areas at about S-3 Q5. Just as the last European faded into the noise the band opened towards the northwest on double-hop as well. Signals from Oregon and Washington were very strong, almost 40 dB over at times. I called CQ hoping for triple-hop into Alaska but only succeeded in working a VE7.

CQ VHF WPX CONTEST

CQ magazines World Wide VHF contest was held this year on July 18th and 19th. Although conditions were nothing like the June event, there were scattered openings via double-hop sporadic-E. Two good catches on the east coast were VP5D in Turks & Caicos who had a tremendous signal early Saturday morning and 4U1UN at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The 4U1UN group was headed by John Lindholm W1XX along with W1GNC, NJ2L, KA3V, W3UBQ, and KB9NM. Their groundwave signal was superb as they were a consistent 10 dB over S-9. If anyone was fortunate enough to work them for a new country, QSL via NA2K, see address in DX News column.

VP2MO BEACON

Thanks to Pat Bunn, N4LTA, Bobbie Martin, VP2MO in Montserrat now has a beacon operational on 50.086 MHz. At the present time the beacon is running 10 watts to a 6 element yagi at 50 feet beamed towards the USA. In the future the antenna will be changed over to a vertical so those in all directions will benefit. The beacon transmitter is a Yaesu FT-620B with message: VVV VVV DE VP2MO / BCN FK86 MONTSERRAT W INDIES AR

4S7EA BEACON

Another new beacon to report this month is that of Ernest, 4S7EA in Sri Lanka. An engineer with the Telecommunications Department, Ernest is the only 6 meter operator in his country. His beacon operates on 50.120 MHz. in grid square MJ 96 SN. It runs 50 watts from a homebrew transmitter to a 6 element yagi at 45 feet. The operation is intermittent and depends on propagation conditions. Ernest began his 6 meter career back in 1979 during the peak of Cycle 21. Back then, he was making regular contacts into Japan, India and Indonesia. His station consists of a Yaesu FT-726R and a Kenwood TS-600 along with a 100 watt homebrew amplifier. The 6 meter allocation in Sri Lanka is 50 - 53 MHz.

MALTA

I received a very nice letter from Paul, 9H1BT who filled me in on the 6 meter activities in Malta. The 6 meter band has been available to the amateurs of Malta since May 1987 (50 - 52 MHz.). At present, only the fully licensed amateurs are authorized use of the band. The Class B (VHF) amateurs may be granted use in the near future. There is no limit on ERP although 10 watts output is the maximum allowable.

Besides Paul, the only other active operator is Joe, 9H1CG. Both run 10 watts into 4 element yagis from grid square JM 75. A beacon with the callsign 9H1SIX is planned for 50.085 MHz. Both operators are looking for donations of 6 meter equipment due to its scarcity in Malta.

MADEIRA ISLANDS

Hern, CT3BX reports that he and Manuel, CT3DK are active on 6 meters from grid square IM 12. Operation is usually on weekends from a portable location north of Funchal. Hern has a special authorization for 1 year of testing which he shares with the Portuguese Army Communications. Equipment is a Yaesu FT-726R and a homebrew 5 element Yagi.

UNITED KINGDOM 6 m GROUP

I have received two copies of the UK 6 Meter Group's newsletter, "Six News" from Jay Miller, KS2T and Bud Weisberg, K2YOF. The January 1987 contained 44 pages chock full of 6 m news. Judging from this newsletter, it is quite apparent that the 6 m boom taking place in the UK is well under way. In addition to the numerous stations in England that are now on the band, the following Europeans have been worked on 6 m in recent months: GM3JIJ, GM4NXO, GU2HML, GI3ZTL, GW3MHW, GW3LDH, GJ3YJH, EI6AS, LA2AB, LA6QBA, LA9UX, LA1K, OH2TI, CT1WW, CT4PI, CT1LN, CT4KQ, EA5WJ, EA1MO, and ZB2BL. With this type of activity flourishing in Europe combined with a new Solar Cycle that has just began, exciting days are ahead.

Much of discussion in this newsletter concerned QSOs that have taken place over the past two years between North America and the United Kingdom. I was under the impression as were many others, that the mode of propagation was double hop sporadic E. However, some

Say You Saw It In Radiosporting

NORTH AMERICAN 6 METER (50 MHZ) SSB NETS					
MON	7:30 PM	NCS: W3CL	50.125 MHz	AREA: PA	MT. AIRY VHF RADIO CLUB (PACK RATS)
MON	8:00 PM	NCS: WD8CTX	50.160 MHz	AREA: OH	OHIO 6 METER NET
MON	9:00 PM	NCS: WB9JWT	50.115 MHz	AREA: WI	MILWAUKEE AREA 6 METER NET
MON	8:00 PM	NCS: WD4MYM	50.200 MHz	AREA: NC	NORTH CAROLINA 6 METER NET
TUE	8:00 PM	NCS: N6FSL	50.150 MHz	AREA: CA	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 6 METER CLUB
(1)TUE	9:00 PM	NCS: K5ZMS	50.200 MHz	AREA: TX	SAN ANTONIO S.M.I.R.K. NET
WED	7:30 PM	NCS: WA6OSX	50.130 MHz	AREA: CA	SACREMENTO 6 METER NET
WED	8:00 PM	NCS: WD4MYM	50.200 MHz	AREA: NC	NORTH CAROLINA 6 METER NET
WED	8:00 PM	NCS: WB8ZHR	50.170 MHz	AREA: OH	SLURP 6 METER SSB NET
WED	8:00 PM	NCS: WD8CTX	50.160 MHz	AREA: OH	OHIO 6 METER NET
THU	7:00 PM	NCS: WB8MCK	50.170 MHz	AREA: OH	WOOD COUNTY ARC NET
(2)THU	8:00 PM	NCS: WA5UUD	50.110 MHz	AREA: LA	K.A.O.S. NET
(1)THU	9:00 PM	NCS: WA5OLT	50.170 MHz	AREA: TX	NORTH TEXAS S.M.I.R.K. NET
FRI	8:00 PM	NCS: WD4MYM	50.200 MHz	AREA: NC	NORTH CAROLINA 6 METER NET
FRI	8:00 PM	NCS: WD8CTX	50.160 MHz	AREA: OH	OHIO 6 METER NET
FRI	8:00 PM	NCS: WB4NJO	50.140 MHz	AREA: AL	ALABAMA 6 METER NET
FRI	9:00 PM	NCS: WB9JWT	50.115 MHz	AREA: WI	MILWAUKEE AREA 6 METER NET
(3)SAT	9:00 AM	NCS: KAØNNO	50.110 MHz	AREA: CO	COLORADO S.I.N. NET
(4)SAT	12:00 AM	NCS:	50.125 MHz	AREA: TX	HOOT OWL NET
SUN	8:00 AM	NCS: WD4MYM	50.200 MHz	AREA: NC	NORTH CAROLINA 6 METER NET
(3)SUN	9:00 AM	NCS: KAØNNO	50.110 MHz	AREA: CO	COLORADO S.I.N. NET
SUN	9:30 AM	NCS: K1MUC	50.175 MHz	AREA: MA	YANKEE SIDEBAND NET
SUN	10:00 AM	NCS: WA3RSQ	50.150 MHz	AREA: PA	SEVERE WEATHER NET
SUN	8:00 PM	NCS: NB9L	50.115 MHz	AREA: IN	TRI-STATE 6 METER NET
(1)SUN	8:00 PM	NCS: K1DAT	50.175 MHz	AREA: MA	NEW ENGLAND S.M.I.R.K. NET
SUN	8:30 PM	NCS: WØKAV	50.150 MHz	AREA: NE	PLATTE VALLEY ARES NET
(1)SUN	9:00 PM	NCS: WA5OLT	50.170 MHz	AREA: TX	NORTH TEXAS S.M.I.R.K. NET
SUN	9:30 PM	NCS: WBØQPM	50.150 MHz	AREA: NE	SCOTTS BLUFF ARES NET
DAILY	10:30 AM	NCS: WB2OKB	50.130 MHz	AREA: NJ	EAST COAST WEATHER NET

NET NOTES: NET TIMES GIVEN ARE "LOCAL" TIME

(1) S.M.I.R.K. - Six Meter International Radio Klub
(2) K.A.O.S. - Keeping Activity On Six
(3) S. I. N. - Six Meter Invitational Net
(4) HOOT OWL NET- Per the #38 Edition of the Six Shooter (SMIRK), this net is now known as the Ed Lax Memorial Chapter, named after their long time member and NCS K5MUH - Ed Lax who became a Silent Key on 10-12-86.

important facts have been brought about that I wasn't aware of. Rick Robinson, K1JRW of Massachusetts had sent a letter to Jeremy, G3IMW which contained the following: "The mode of propagation is questionable, possibly a combination of Es and thermal ducting. These conditions certainly were the case when W6JKV was in Azores. Several times we would copy him even when the 10 m band was completely dead, indicating some other form of propagation other than Es." (de VE3BMV: Isn't this another supporting evidence of my Refractive Propagation Theory?)

This same situation occurred on July 9th, 1986 when Larry Vogt, N4VA was operating portable on the North Carolina Coast and with Steve Wilson, W2CAP on July, 12th, 1986 who is located on the coast of Yarmouthport, MA. On both occasions, these stations completed QSO's with stations in the UK while the 10 meter band was completely dead. Other stations located in-land heard nothing. This would indicate to me that thermal ducting is a distinct possibility. Do any readers have any other theories? I am sure that we will experience more trans-Atlantic openings once again this summer and hopefully begin to better understand what is actually taking place.

Six News is available by writing to its editor: Maureen Wright GW8ZCP, 6 Cwm Eithin, Wrexham, Clwyd LL12 8JY.

MICROWAVE MODULES MMT50/28S TRANSVERTER:

The use of transverters in conjunction to HF transceivers is a cost effective way of gearing up on the VHF/UHF bands. The long awaited MMT50/28S Transverter from Microwave Modules LTD of Liverpool, England is finally available here in the States. This transverter is designed for operation in conjunction with a 28 MHz transceiver equipped with suitable transverter facilities and will deliver a full 20 watts output on 6 meters. The MMT50/28S and its "sister" unit, the MMT50/144 (2 m IF version) are available directly from the importer: The PX Shack, 52 Stonewyck Dr., Belle Mead, NJ 08502. Price class is #350.00. Steve Katz, CQ Magazine VHF columnist has written a very thorough and indept product review for this item in the May issue of CQ.

More antennas:

In my previous column I had included a chart depicting some of the 6 meter antennas that are available on the amateur market. Since then I have received a nice brochure and specification sheet from Creative Design Ltd. which features a full line of Yagis covering 80 meters through 432 MHz, in addition to rotators, log periodics, high power baluns, roof towers, etc. The US import distributor for Creative Design Antennas is: Orion Hi-Tech, PO Box 8771, Calabaas, CA 91302. Table 1 list a breakdown of their 6 meter models.

MODEL	ELEMENTS	GAIN	F/B RATIO	MAX. POWER	BOOM LENGTH	WEIGHT	WIND AREA
CL6A	5	12.0	26.0	500 W	13' 1"	10 lbs	2.1 SQ. FT.
CL6DX	6	13.0	22.0	500 W	19' 0"	12 lbs	3.2 SQ. FT.
CL6DXX	7	14.0	24.0	1000 W	23' 7"	20 lbs	4.3 SQ. FT.
CL6DXZ	8	14.5	20.0	1000 W	30' 6"	44 lbs	5.9 SQ. FT.
CL610	10	15.5	26.0	500 W	43' 10"	42 lbs	9.4 SQ. FT.
CL611	11	16.0	30.0	500 W	43' 10"	44 lbs	9.7 SQ. FT.

Southern California 6 Meter Club

This organization was formed about 2 years ago and has been instrumental in the growth of 6 meter activity in Southern California, especially on FM. The Club's publication, called "The Newsletter," is printed 8 to 12 times a year with articles of general interest to the amateur community with emphasis on 6 meter operation. The club officers are: President - Bob Hastings, K6PHE, Vice President - Will Anderson, AA6DD, Treasurer - Dave Giutierrez, WA6PMX, Secretary - Gracie Hastings, N6FSL, Ways & Means - Sue Morgan, KG6JF.

The club sponsors the following nets: Tuesday 8:00 PM (PST) - 50.150 SSB. Net control is located in the North Orange County area. Antennas should be vertically polarized.

Tuesday 8:30 PM - 28.400 SSB not limited to 6 meters, also technical topics and other bands are discussed.

Thursday 8:00 PM - 52.88/52.28 FM WA6CHI. This net takes place on the Castro Peak Repeater. Net control also listens to the 52.26 (Lake Hughes Repeater).

Thursday 9:00 PM - 50.300 FM Simplex. This is an informal net to promote 50.300 FM as a National Six Meter Simplex Frequency.

For more information regarding the Southern California 6 Meter Club, they can be reached at P.O. Box 448, Cypress, California 90630. (KA3B)

From 160 to 6 m are active those Asian DXers assembled at Koh, JA1GTF's station under the 160 m DXCC and 6 m WAC: (L. to R.) 9M2AX, JA1CHN, JF1NZW and JR1EBE.

THE RUDEST HAM ON THE BAND

Hal Blegen, WA7EGA

Although I believe in courtesy, I have recently become a bad guy. This is the sad story of how I became a LID.

After nearly 30 years (K7IRA, W4ODR, KR6FQ, WA7EGA,) I finally gave up the comforting, warm glow of filaments for a solid state transceiver that runs FSK and allows me to monitor my own signal. I operate almost exclusively RTTY and I thought that FSK rather than AFSK operation would have less chance of spurious sidebands and maybe improve the efficiency of the transmitter a little. Besides, it was real easy to hook up! The monitor feature also lets me see my transmit signal on the scope so I can check my shift and make sure that I am actually transceive. The digital readout shows MARK transmit frequency on RTTY instead of sideband zero-beat. I also opted for a 250 Hz narrow filter. Finally, I put up a 100 foot tower, added a 5 element monobander with a pretty spiffy front-to-back ratio and beefed up the cooling on my amplifier so I could actually run a KW out on RTTY. On the seventh day I rested.

Since most of these changes actually improved my ability to hear signals I was surprised when I started getting complaints like:

"HEY LID, WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN FIRST!"

One of the more polite fellows dropped from 14,100 to ask me if I would please move off the packet frequency.

During a contest one day a fellow pointed out:

"---ALL YOU CONTEST STATIONS THINK YOU OWN THE BAND!"

The irate sufferers usually avoid on-the air confrontation by not identifying and especially by not hanging around for a discussion period so the actual number of offended brethren is hard to estimate but if popular support is an indicator, I'm up there with Attila the Hun.

My big mistake was the filter. On RTTY or CW I find that an S7 noise level drops to zero with no loss of signal by just switching from a 2.5 kHz SSB filter to a nice, tight 250 Hz. (If your rig switches rather than cascades filters, you won't notice insertion losses with good filters.) At worst case a 170 Hz shift signal running 45 Baud requires less than 225 Hz bandwidth. You realize a much improved signal to noise ratio and eliminate 90 percent of the QRM by using a narrow filter. But I had forgotten that the majority still runs AFSK. A SSB filter hears as much as 1.5 kHz on each side of the signal center. To a 250 Hz filter, 1.5 kHz looks like the wide open spaces with nobody home but me. A DX station calling CQ about 400 Hz above a QSO in progress is probably weak enough not to pump the AGC, and the audio filter in the TU takes care of it. But when I point the beam across the U.S. from Washington State, stoke up the amp and answer the DX, I blanket the IF and wipe out the QSO without even knowing it was there. My first inkling of a problem is:

"WHY DON'T YOU LISTEN FIRST, YOU DUMB LID!" Yep, that filter was a big mistake.

If you are key down on RTTY but not sending anything (no shift) and you read the RF on a frequency counter, it will display your Mark frequency. In LSB position running AFSK (audio into mike input) the display frequency shown on your transceiver, even if it is in perfect calibration, will be 2125 Hz higher than your transmitted signal. A fellow on packet sets up on what is nominally a packet frequency at 14100 plus a little and gets a nice little group going. A Japanese bulletin board with lots of good DX information from around the Pacific operates on 14098 MARK. I point the beam and fire up the amp. In the morning I am just barely making it into Japan, but I am still S8 in Georgia off the back of the beam. Here we go again:

"WA7EGA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE AT 14100. THIS IS A PACKET FREQUENCY, GIVE US A CHANCE. PLEASE QSY!!"

If things weren't already bad enough, I work contests. In a contest you run what is called a TRAP frequency. (CQ CONTEST DE WA7EGA). Depending on the conditions, you may stay on the one frequency for several hours, poking your beam into various latitudes in hope of stirring up some activity. Front to back on the beam is something like 30 dB. During a BARTG contest on Saturday morning I have been beaming Asia at 300 degrees for fifteen minutes and have only worked three stations. Unknown to me a couple of QSO's have started up on each side of me. I give up trying to find the XX9 and run the beam around to 110 degrees for the Caribbean. My first CQ immediately generates at least four believers, one of whom will ask me:

"WHY IS IT THAT YOU CONTEST STATIONS THINK YOU OWN THE BAND?"

Sometimes he will punish me by running five minutes of RY's on the frequency. I usually stuff it into memory and come back when he is done as I know that frequency is now clear.

The length of a QSO depends on the DX. If he talks about the weather, his new antenna and sends a brag tape, nobody will complain. Using his lead you have the choice of rag chewing or not and again its your business. But, if the DX station ends a transmission with "SK" (ARRL Operating Manual PG 2.2 "END OF CONTACT"), do not expect the rest of the world to stand by while you finish your half of the rag chew. "WA7EGA, I was talking to XX9DN and you ruined my QSO!."

Ooops!

RTTY DX brings out the very worst in almost all sta-

tions. Rare is relative to your wall and last time I looked there were only 139 RTTY DXCC's which leaves a lot of space on a lot of walls.

Typical is the case of somebody sending a station in a rare country a C-64 and as a favor to the sender, the DX station comes up to work a little RTTY. He is running wide filters on AFSK, has little experience with RTTY pileups and is not even all that comfortable tuning signals (no scope). On this end, we're lucky if it takes as long as ten minutes for him to figure out that as compared to CW or SSB, his rate is awful. The 100 percent duty cycle heats things up and makes him nervous about his final transistors and pretty soon RTTY goes back on the shelf for another year. You can usually bet that of the six stations who worked him five were not overly polite to each other, were not QRP and did not lack aluminum.

I have never seen an RTTY DX station split a pile up and with everyone on the same frequency it can be nearly impossible to get a clean call. OX3FG is one of the better RTTY operators I have heard. To get calls, he deliberately delays the start of his transmission, looks for tailenders and jots them down. He calls the next station immediately after finishing a QSO and never loses control of the frequency.

The key is how long it takes to turn on your carrier, sign only your call and get back off the air. If your software takes much longer than a second, it won't work. But if you can surgically insert your call between transmissions without covering anybody, then the DX has an option and you will probably not be considered QRM. If you keep doing it at the end of every transmission, you will invariably make somebody mad but you can usually do this once per QSO and then wait until he finishes to see if he took the bait. Some DX operators ignore tailenders to discourage the QRM generated when it gets out of hand or when somebody botches the process. You MUST have solid copy on both ends of the QSO and use PRECISE timing.

Unfortunately, some folks think that if the DX is talking to them, they own it all, the DX, the frequency and all that dead space while they send RY's, the DX's call six times, their own call three times and the date/time UTC. Once, when I tried slipping in my call, I got severely chastised for rude and unethical operation (its hereditary). To be sure of getting my attention, the crusader broadcasts his lecture on the same frequency as the DX. By the time he finished, the DX was long gone, everybody was cranky and I put in for a new call and sneaked of to 40 meter CW. Of course, blameless I am not. One night, after beating my way through a CW pileup for an OHØ that the DX news sheet said was active on RTTY, I sent his report and asked, "RTTY?." He immediately came back with, "YES, 14080 at ---static crash---." Now I have a problem. I ask "TIME AGAIN." and the fine OH0 stays with it and sends the time. I go away happy but I can hear the rustle of pages as 50 CW operators look me up in the call book to address pipebombs.

I once refused to believe that an A35 could not copy me over the top of a W8 when both of us answered his CQ. I discovered that an unruly pileup of as few as two can drive a DX station off the band in disgust.

As for the dubious honor of being the rudest station on the band---nobody is perfect and I'm still working on it. ●

(WA7EGA)

How to Put up an Antenna Tower

Author unknown,
submitted by Jim Goffos, WB8ZGM

The following was generated by a ham after having his insurance company reject his accident claim. The company said that "poor planning" as a cause was not sufficient, and that more information was needed. Below is his reply "in more detail".

Background Information: I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot antenna tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware.

Rather than carry the unneeded tools and hardware down by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley which, unfortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and hardware into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools and hardware.

The Accident: You will note in Block #11 of the accident form that I weigh 155 pounds! Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel hit the ground, and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools and hardware, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in Block #11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The final blow: The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and hardware; and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools and hardware in pain, unable to stand up, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind-- I let go of the rope.

(The Lake County ARA Patch, Box 868, Plainsville, OH 44077)

The Real-time Clock in the Commodore 64

Pete Smith, N4ZR

This is the latest in a series of articles on computer programming for contesters by Pete Smith, N4ZR. Pete's firm, Winner's Edge Software (2003 Sarazen Pl., Reston, VA 22091, USA), produces real-time integrated contest software for the Commodore 64 computer. The examples in the following article are written in Commodore Basic 2.0.

Commodore Basic includes a reserved variable, TI$, which reads an on-board 60-times-per second interrupt timer (or "jiffy clock") and translates it into a six-character string variable which displays hours, minutes and seconds. Because this clock is so easily accessible (PRINT TI$ puts the time on the screen), it is tempting to use in programming. But there is one problem - it does not keep accurate time. One reference says that the time is accurate to within about two minutes a day, while another says that the jiffy clock stops running during disk input or output, so that any program that writes log entries to disk, for example, will cause the clock to lose a few seconds with each QSO. Experience tends to support the second - clearly, something better is needed.

Happily, there is a solution. The Commodore 64 has a separate time-of-day clock in one of the Complex Interface Adaptor (CIA) chips, which keeps accurate time based on the frequency of the line voltage. The only problem is that, for reasons long lost in history, the readout of the clock is in binary-coded-decimal (BCD) format. An explanation of BCD is beyond the reach of this article - suffice it to say, the BCD representation of a time like "2045" looks nothing like "2045." I found a conversion algorithm in Raeto West's "Programming the Commodore 64" and wrote the rest of the routines myself to set the clock in 24-hour time and read it in the same notation.

The examples that follow are only relevant to the Commodore 64, although there may be analogous circuits in other computers.

To use the time-of day clock, we need two little bits of programming, one to set the clock and another to read it. Each of these routines translates between normal time representation and BCD, or vice versa.

Clock Setter

This routine takes numerical two-digit inputs for hours (HH) and minutes (MM) in 24-hour format and converts to BCD values (HA and MA) that are then poked into the right memory locations to set the clock.

```
10 INPUT"HOURS";HH: INPUT"MINUTES";MM:
INPUT"SECONDS";SS:INPUT"TE100 HT = HH:IF HH12 THEN HH =
HH-12
110 HA = INT(HH/10) * 16 + HH - INT(HH/10)*10:REM CON-
VERTS TO BCD
120 MA = INT(MM/10) * 16 + MM - INT(MM/10)*10:REM DITTO
150 IF HT12 THEN HA = HA+128
160 POKE 56331, HA: POKE 56330, MA: POKE 56329, SA: POKE
56328,TA
```

Clock Reader

The next bit of programming is to reverse the process, and read the real-time clock. Some of this was developed through trial and error, and I have no doubt that some more elegant way of programming it is possible, but this does work. HB and MB are the values in the hours and minutes register; the rest of the routine converts them to normal 24-hour format.

```
200HB = PEEK(56331):MB = PEEK(56330):TB = PEEK(56328)
210 HT = HB:IF HB128 THEN HB = HB-128
220 HH = INT(HB/16)*10 + (HB AND 15)
230 MM = INT(MB/16)*10 + (MB AND 15)
240 IF HT128 AND HH12 THEN HH = HH + 12
250 IF HT = 18 THEN HH = 0
260 IF HH = 0 THEN HH$ = "00"
270 IF MM = 0 THEN MM$ = "00"
280 IF HH 9 THEN HH$ = "0" + MID$(STR$(HH),2)
290 IF MM 9 THEN MM$ = "0" + MID$(STR$(MM),2)
300 IF HH = 10 THEN HH$ = MID$(STR$(HH),2)
310 IF MM = 10 THEN MM$ = MID$(STR$(MM),2)
320 TY$ = HH$ + MM$: PRINT TY$
```

That's all there is to it. The one trick that is not obvious is that each time the clock is read, it is stopped, and the tenths of seconds register must be read in order to restart it. That is the function of reading TB in line 200.

You can make each of these be a subroutine of your program. Call the clock-setting routine with a GOSUB once, when you want to set the clock; call the clock-reading routine every time you want to display the current time on the screen or use it in some other part of your program.

The time of day clock derives its timing from the line current, and the C-64 "wakes up" thinking it is in a 60-Hz environment. For a QTH with 50-Hz line current, you must insert the line POKE 56344, PEEK (56344) OR 128 in your program before setting the clock the first time.

A footnote on garbage collection, the topic of the last article - - there are a couple of alternative solutions that have come to my attention. First, the February 1987 issue of Compute's! Gazette has an article about a short machine language program that can be added to any basic program to change the way the C-64 does garbage collection. It cuts the time required for 2000 strings from over 5 minutes to six-tenths of a second. Some experiments I have done suggest that it does not work perfectly with disk I/O of large numbers of strings, however. The Commodore 128 uses something similar as a part of Basic 7.0, which may not have this problem.

The other approach, and the one I am now using, is to turn the BASIC into something like machine language using a program called a "compiler" that handles string variables properly. In all of my software, I use the Basic 64 compiler from Abacus Software. Not only does it run about five times as fast as interpreted BASIC, but it virtually eliminates garbage collection delays and stores strings more efficiently than ordinary BASIC, allowing room for more QSOs in a given memory space. Not bad!

Next - an intelligent user interface. (N4ZR)

Traffic, Emergency

K4ZN
Rev. Chuck Clark

Route 3, Box 800
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

American Morse Code

Occasionally you will hear an American or Canadian amateur using the American Morse Code, Morse's original telegraphic alphabet. Fifteen of the letters are the same as the International Code, but the other eleven are different as are most of the numerals and punctuation. Its most obvious feature is the use of spaces within letters. Thus O is dit dit, with a space between the dits. The space in the word SO, for example, is more than in the word SI, but less than in SEE. It's easy to appreciate that the characters with spaces could be responsible for errors in copying. In fact one almost has to copy behind to copy American Morse without error, determining from the context what the correct letters are.

The code was used on American wire telegraph circuits as long as messages were sent manually, until telegraphers were replaced by machines. It was used on American ships in the early days of radio, but was discontinued when international conventions standardized the International Code in the interest of safety. It was used on some radio circuits within the U.S. until World War II. Western Union had a network of HF point-to-point radiotelegraph stations, where the operators often sent a mixture of the two codes, and it was impressive to watch one of the old timers sit down at the mill and make clean copy of the mixture at fifty words per minute or so.

Some of those old timers had skills that have pretty well disappeared these days. They could carry on a conversation with someone and copy code at the same time, and not miss a letter. Some of them would copy a sentence behind what was being sent, seeming to have a buffer in their head somewhere. Ship operators would copy press bulletins for the ship's newspaper directly on a mimeograph stencil so that they could turn it over to the purser or whoever was responsible for printing the paper as soon as it was received. Many amateurs used to copy the press bulletins for practice too. We didn't need W1AW then, we could get CW to copy almost any time and at many different speeds. Press Wireless, for instance, transmitted bulletins at 22, 37, 50 words per minute several times a day from both East and West Coast stations.

All that has gone now, victim of progress. The few passenger vessels still afloat, mostly cruise ships, now get any news bulletins by RTTY, satellite, or other high tech modes. The American Morse Code had just about disappeared from Western Union's lines by the end of World War II, except for those lines used jointly by Western Union and railroads. By the 1960s the railroads had retired manual telegraphy too, with radiotelephone and digital modes taking its place, the digital modes opening the way to railroad automation. You don't often see brakemen swinging lanterns to signal the engineer these days, nor do they often use the air brake line for that purpose. Instead, they call on their hand-held. ("OK, go ahead and back up." "Well make up your mind. Which do you want, go ahead or back up? I can't do both at the same time!").

Yet the American Morse is not entirely dead. You'll find some amateurs in various parts of the country still using it. In fact there are a few Morse nets still operating, listed in the ARRL Net Directory. The FCC has no objections to our using the American Morse Code, with two exceptions. If we use manual telegraphy to identify our station as required by section 97.84 of the FCC rules, we must use the International Code for the purpose, in accordance with paragraph (g)(1). Second, novices may use only the International Morse Code on the 80, 40, 15, and 10 meter bands when using CW (Section 97.7 (g)(1)). If you want to split hairs, that last rule would make it illegal for novices to use the long dash for zero (the American Morse zero), or to use AA in the address line of a formal message as is commonly done by amateurs handling traffic on CW, because that is the American Morse comma. But that would be straining out gnats.

Liaison

Most nets on 20 and 15 meters seem to work well without it, but liaison is the necessary ingredient for successful traffic handling on the lower-frequency bands. Ranges on twenty meters are such that direct contact between stations is usually possible, and when it is not, there is usually a station on the net that can act as relay. But on the lower frequencies ranges are more limited. On twenty meters a station in Florida with traffic for New York could handle it direct. An attempt to do it on 75 meters would quite likely fail. True, it might be possible for the Florida station to make contact on 75, but handling traffic would be painful, and doing it on a New York net would tie up the whole net for maybe five or ten minutes. It goes much easier if the message can be given to a liaison station.

So why not do all traffic handling on twenty meters? Twenty meters now has about all the traffic nets for which there is room. The wide area coverage of a net on twenty means that the net also has a wide area of interference. The lower frequency bands can accommodate several times as many nets and stations.

Liaison can be highly organized, as it is in National Traffic System nets, or it can be quite informal as on some of the independent nets. National Traffic System nets have clearly defined routes, section to region to area to transcontinental corps, routes which all messages ordinarily are supposed to follow. On independent nets, often liaison is simply "can anyone take a piece of traffic for New York?" Usually someone can, but sometimes a message can hang around for days if there are no takers.

Two points about liaison stations should be mentioned here. For more detailed information on how it's done in the National Traffic System, see the ARRL booklets. First, when liaison stations check into your net, clear them immediately if you can. Often they have traffic for other nets too, and this is particularly true if they are bringing traffic from the transcontinental corps (TCC). If you don't have anyone aboard who can make delivery, get someone to volunteer to hold the traffic for later relay. It sometimes happens that a TCC representative will check into a net and be chewed out by the net control station for not putting it into the TCC station's own section or local net and thus bypassing the proper NTS routing. And the TCC operator has to listen to this and suffer the delay because the NCS doesn't know as much about NTS routing as he thinks he does, and feels compelled to display his ignorance.

The second point is that liaison stations, like net control stations, don't come from Washington, Gettysburg, or Newington. Almost every net could use a few more. So if you have a few months' experience operating in a net, observe the net controllers and the liaison stations, see how it's done, and then tell the net manager you would like to volunteer for one or the other jobs. Not having enough people means either that the function is skipped on some days, or that some people take more than their fair share of the workload. Try it. It's not as hard as it seems, and goes much more easily after you've done it a few times. (K4ZN)

Pope Comm

A Miami ham radio club coordinated communications for the recent visit of Pope John Paul II. The Sociedad International de Radio Afficionados, Inc. (SIRA) was selected by the Miami Archdiocese to organize and plan the communications for the visit of Pope to that city on Sept. 10 and 11.

SIRA President Rafael Estevez, WA4ZZG, took an unpaid leave of absence from his job and worked almost around the clock for the last four weeks prior to the Pope's arrival. Included in his duties was the training of key personnel and volunteers in the use of 115 hand-held and 3 base stations. Other hams involved in the project were: KB4AW, WD4OZV, WB4LZR, CX2RJ/W4, KA4CQR, N4DAA, HK4BTV/W4 and CX2DDS/W4.

The primary reason SIRA was chosen by the Archdiocese was its long term experience in emergency situations along with its well trained bilingual operators. Since its inception SIRA has deployed self-supported emergency teams to many parts of the world in time of crisis and disaster. Its track record is proven at all levels - from message handling to gathering tons of medical supplies and shipping them into a devastated area. (Westlink Report)

FCC News

W4GF
Bill Grenfell

7216 Valleycrest Blvd.
Annandale, VA 22003

BRADLEY P. HOLMES, CHIEF OF THE FCC's MASS MEDIA BUREAU'S POLICY AND RULES DIVISION IS REPORTED TO BE THE WHITE HOUSE CHOICE TO FILL THE FCC COMMISSIONER VACANCY CREATED BY THE DEPARTURE OF MARK FOWLER. (W5YI 09/01/87).

THE FCC HAS A NEW MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE, DOCUMENT MP-4, DATED JULY 1987, ENTITLED "FCC METHODS OF MEASUREMENT OF RADIO NOISE EMISSIONS FROM COMPUTING DEVICES." To assist industry, FCC's Office of Engineering and Science will also offer four tutorials in October at the FCC Laboratory in Columbia, Maryland, on the testing of personal computer systems. (W5YI 09/01/87).

SKIPNET HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FCC. Acting on an ARRL request, FCC issued a Special Temporary Authority (STA) that permits some 50 high frequency amateur stations to conduct an experiment in unattended automatic operation while transmitting third-party traffic on discrete frequencies in the 20, 30, 40 and 80 meter bands. Once Skipnet begins its operation, the packeteers named under the STA will be able to participate as relay stations or "packet switches" in experimenting with long-haul automated packet communication. If their Skipnet experiment proves to be a success, it could lead to the ARRL or some other entity requesting a permanent policy change in regard to unattended packet operation on the high frequency bands. (Westlink Report 08/07/87).

A VEC GROUP HAS REQUESTED THAT FCC APPOINT CALL SIGN COORDINATORS WHO COULD ISSUE TEMPORARY 2X3 CALL SIGNS TO NOVICE OPERATORS WHO HAVE PASSED THEIR LICENSE REQUIREMENTS BUT HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THEIR FCC LICENSES. (W5YI 09/01/87).

A PETITION HAS BEEN FILED WITH FCC TO AMEND RULE SECTION 97.29(c) TO PROVIDE THAT THE LENGTH OF THE CODE TESTS COULD EXCEED A "MINIMUM" OF FIVE MINUTES. Also requested was amendment of Section 97.29(c) to provide that examinees -may- be tested on the 26 letters, numerals, punctuation and the 2-letter procedure signs

IN RECENT FCC TESTS OF 15 "CLASS B COMPUTING DEVICES" FOUR FAILED THE AC-LINE-CONDUCTED RF EMISSIONS TEST AND FOUR FAILED THE RADIATED EMISSION TEST. Since some devices failed both tests, six computers were tested non-compliant.

AT LEAST SEVEN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ADVISED FCC OF THEIR INTEREST IN BECOMING A SPECIAL CALL SIGN COORDINATOR (SCSC). They are: Sunnyvale-VEC SCSC; W5YI-VEC Regional SCSC; Buckmaster; Callbook; Central Alabama VEC, Inc.; Forest Industries Telecommunications; and the ARRL. This is in response to FCC's PRB-3 notice which asked for comment on whether the private sector should be authorized to issue amateur station call signs. "The FCC has informally indicated that this inquiry is considered to be a high priority item and some sort of action will probably take place in the spring of 1988." (W5YI Report, 08/15/87) (Westlink Report, 08/21/87) (ARRL Letter, 08/11/87).

THE FREQUENCY COMMITTEE OF THE ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS IS REPORTED TO BE INTERESTED IN EXTENDING AMATEUR NOVICE PRIVILEGES DOWN TO THE SIX METER LEVEL. This would permit Novice amateur operators to use 6 meters to fly radio-controlled model aircraft and avoid the QRM at 72 MHz. (W5YI Report, 09/01/87).

ON THE FIRST FEED OF THE ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT PROGRAM, AUGUST 17, TED KOPPEL REPORTED THAT A "HAM RADIO OPERATOR" WAS TRANSMITTING FALSE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL INSTRUCTIONS ON A LAGUARDIA AIRPORT FREQUENCY. The story went on to say the individual responsible had not been identified, so of course the idea that he might be a ham was pure supposition. In fact, the original story came from AP, which quoted an FAA spokesman as referring to a "phantom" radio operator; somehow ABC turned "phantom" into "ham." The reference was corrected on the second and third feeds of the same program, so only parts of the country heard the slanderous reference. Unfortunately, despite repeated phone calls, telegrams, and other messages from ARRL and individual amateurs, ABC so far has declined to air a clarification. (ARRL Letter, 08/28/87); (Westlink Report, 09/04/87).

THE SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS HAS CRITICIZED FCC FOR ITS GENERAL RADIO DOCKET 87-14 PROPOSAL TO REALLOCATE THE 220-222 MHz BAND TO THE LAND MOBILE INDUSTRY, SAYING THAT "...IT IS UNNECESSARY AND WOULD RESULT IN UNDERUTILIZATION OF THE BAND. "The Commission's assumption that the land mobile industry needs this additional spectrum is unfounded." Aerotron, Inc. in its comment on the Docket wrote "Aerotron believes the many comments filed by or on behalf of the Amateur Radio Service licensees represent the bias of one user group only, and that, overall, they are extremely shortsighted." "...it is typical in allocations proceedings affecting the Amateur Service for the Commission to be inundated with mostly brief and conclusionary comments from amateurs who resist any change in the rules, however slight, that they see as adverse to their interests. (ARRL Letter, 08/28/87); (Westlink Report, 08/21/87; 08/07/87)

SHOWING PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT 420MHz BAND EQUIPMENT, FCC HAS ISSUED A WARNING ABOUT MODIFYING AND OPERATING AMATEUR EQUIPMENT OUTSIDE AMATEUR BANDS EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED UNDER FCC REGULATIONS (e.g. MARS AND CAP).

CHARGED WITH OPERATING AN UNLICENSED STATION AND CAUSING DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE TO POLICE COMMUNICATIONS, JOSEPH FRANOWSKY, KA9SKZ, WAS FINED $2000 BY FCC AND MAY HAVE HIS LICENSE SUSPENDED. He allegedly programmed an amateur transceiver to operate on a frequency used by the Orland Park (Illinois) Police where he allegedly impersonated a police officer, harassed police with profanity and made false fire alarm calls. (ARRL Letter, 08/11/87); (W5YI Report, 08/15/87).

LOSS OF THE 430-440 PORTION OF THE 420-450 MHz AMATEUR BAND IS POSSIBLE DUE TO A MEXICAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL AT THE 1987 MOBILE RADIO WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE Sept. 14 through Oct. 16 meeting at Geneva Switzerland, "Mexico indicated that it had strong support from other Central and South American nations for the reallocation, and noted that even if it were turned down by the WARC body as a whole, Mexico might unilaterally make this reallocation." Michael Fitch, Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau which oversees the Amateur Radio Service was Vice Chairman of the US delegation to the Mobile WARC. (Westlink Report, 10/02/87). (ARRL Letter, 09/24/87)

FCC HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ITS 1987 ORDER EXPANDING THE PRIVILEGES AVAILABLE TO NOVICE AMATEUR OPERATORS (Docket No. 86-161, effective March 21, 1987). Both expansion and reduction of the frequencies available to Novices was requested.

A COMPUTER NETWORKING CONFERENCE IN 1988 WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE NEW FCC RULES FOR PACKET. At a 08/19/87 Conference meeting at Redondo Beach, CA, "...the main outcome was the formulation of a draft packet

CONTEST RULES

FRANK ANZALONE, W1WY
CQ Magazine
14 Sherwood Road, Stamford, CT 06905

Calendar of Events

Oct.	**24-25**	**CQ WW DX SSB Contest**
Oct	28-30	YLRL Anniv. SSB QSO Party
Oct 30	- Nov 1	Maryland/D.C. QSO Party
Nov	7-9	ARRL CW Sweepstakes
Nov	14	ALARA YL-OM Contest
Nov	14-15	European RTTY Contest
Nov	14-15	Czechoslovakian DX Contest
Nov	21-23	ARRL Phone Sweepstakes
Nov	22	INORC Maritime Contest
Nov	22	MARAC Maritime Contest
Nov.	**28-29**	**CQ WW DX CW Contest**
Dec	4-6	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec.	5-6	TOPS 3.5 MHz CW Contest
Dec.	5-7	Telco Pioneers QSO Party
Dec	12-13	ARRL 10 Meter Contest
Dec	13	ARCI QRP CW Sprint
Dec	27	Canada Day Contest
Jan	2-3	"73" 10 Meter SSB Champ.
Jan	9 & 10	"73" 15&20 M SSB Champ.
Jan	16-17	"73" 160 M SSB Champ.
Jan	16-17	Hungarian DX Contest
Jan	23&24	"73" 40&75 M SSB Champ.
Jan	23-25	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
Jan.	**29-31**	**CQ WW 160 M CW Contest**
Jan	30-31	YL-ISSB CW QSO Party
Feb	13-14	QCWA CW QSO Party
Feb	13-15	YLRL YL-OM Phone Contest
Feb	20-21	ARRL DX CW Contest
Feb.	**26-28**	**CQ WW 160 M SSB Contest**
Feb	27-29	YLRL YL-OM CW Contest
Mar	5-6	ARRL DX Phone Contest
Mar	12-13	QCWAPhone QSO Party
Mar	19-20	YL-ISSB Phone QSO Party
Mar.	**26-27**	**CQ WW WPX SSB Contest**

ARRL Sweepstakes

CW Nov. 7-9 Phone: Nov. 21-23
Starts: 2100Z Sat. Ends: 0300Z Mon.

This is the 54th running of the Sweepstakes, making it the oldest domestic competition going, and it really stirs up a lot of activity.

Operation is limited to stations in ARRL sections, which also includes the West Indies section (KP4, KV4, etc.) and U.S. possessions in the Pacific. Operation is limited to 24 out of the 30 hour contest period. Times off may not be less than 30 minutes and must be clearly indicated in your log.

In order to minimize QRM to non-contesters it is recommended that operation be confined to certain portions of the bands. It is recommended that you check *QST* for details.

There are several other regulations, including a cross-check sheet if you make 200 or more contacts. A large SASE (39¢ in postage) will get you the "SS Package" and Operating Aid #6 with enough log and summary sheets for an average outing.

Exchange: QSO no., power class, call, last two digits of year first licensed, and your ARRL section.

Stations using 150 watts or less are classed "A" and over 150 watts "B." The same station may be worked once only regardless of the band.

Scoring: Each completed QSO is worth 2 points. The multiplier is derived from the number of ARRL sections, plus VE8, worked (maximum of 74).

Awards: The usual certificates in each class and mode for single operator stations in each section and multi-operator stations in each division.

Logs must be received no later than December 31st and go to: ARRL Communications Dept., 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

ALARA YL/OM Contest

0001Z to 2359Z Saturday, November 14

Organized by the Australian Ladies Amateur Assn., this activity is open to all YLs, OMs, and SWLs worldwide. YLs work everyone, OMs work YLs only, and SWLs log YLs only.

Use all five bands, 3.5 through 28 MHz. Each station may be worked on each band and each mode for point credit.

Exchange: RS(T), QSO no. starting with 001, and name. (ALARA members will identify.)

Scoring: Phone—ALARA contacts 5 points, non-member YL contacts 4 points, OM contacts 3 points.

CW—Double above points for CW contacts.

SWL—5 points for ALARA contacts logged, 4 points for non-member YL stations logged.

Frequencies: 3525-3590, 7100-7120, 14060-14235, 21100-21200, 21350-21370, 28100-28350.

Awards: A wide selection of certificates to YL, OM, and SWL winners in each country, continent, VK call area, and overall score. The Florence McKenzie CW Trophy, to the top-scoring VK YL Novice operator.

Logs must be received by December 31st by the ALARA Contest Manager, Mrs. Marlene Perry, VK2KFQ, 31 Cadell Street, Wentworth 2648, N.S.W. Australia.

European RTTY Contest

1200Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun., Nov. 14-15

Rules for the WAEDC RTTY contest are the same as for the CW and Phone sections held in August and September.

Exchange: RST plus a progressive QSO number.

Points: Each QSO and each QTC exchanged are worth one point.

Multiplier: For non-Europeans is determined by the number of European countries worked on each band. (See the European country list in August Calendar.)

Bonus Multiplier: Multiply your multiplier on 80 meters by 4, on 40 meters by 3, and on 10/15/20 meters by 2.

There is one main difference, however. To generate more activity in Europe and increase the QSO points, contacts between European stations are also permitted. QTC traffic, however, is only permitted between Europeans and non-Europeans, same as in the CW and Phone contests. The multiplier regulations remain the same.

The above will have no affect on the US and other non-European stations.

Check the August Calendar for all the other detailed rules and regulations.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the highest scorers in each class in each country with a reasonable score. Continental leaders will receive a plaque. Certificates will also be awarded to stations with at least half the score of the continental leader.

It is suggested that you use the official DARC log forms. A large SASE (IRCs) to the address below will get you a supply.

Mailing deadline for all entries is December 15th to: WAEDC Contest Committee, Postbox 1328, D-8950 Kaufbeuren, West Germany.

Czechoslovakian Contest

1200Z Sat. to 1200Z Sun., Nov. 14-15

Some changes in the format of this year's OK-DX Contest were expected. However, no word has been received. Following are the rules that were used last year. In the past it was a worldwide-type contest, so do not limit your activity to working Czechs only.

Use all six bands, 1.8 to 28 MHz. The same station may be worked once per band, either phone or CW, for QSO and multiplier credit.

Classes: Single operator, both single and all band, multi-operator all band only, and SWL. (Club stations will be considered multi-operator.

Only one transmitter and one band permitted during the same 10-minute period, no QSYing to another band.

Exchange: RS(T) and number of your ITU zone.

Scoring: One point per QSO; 3 points if it's with a Czech (OK4/mm 1 point only). Own country may be worked, but for multiplier credit only.

Multiplier: Sum of different ITU zones worked on each band.

Final Score: Total QSO points from all bands times the sum of the zone multipliers from each band.

A penalty of three additional contacts of the same point value will be deducted for each duplicate QSO or multiplier removed by the committee. Taking credit for excessive duplicates and other violations (regulations, unsportsmanlike conduct, etc.) will be deemed cause for disqualification.

Awards: Certificates in each class to the top-scoring station in each country. Additional awards will be made if returns justify. The "100 OK," "OK SSB," "Slovensko," and other Czech awards will be issued for contacts in the contest if a written application is submitted with your log.

Use a separate log for each band, indicate the zone multiplier only the first time it is worked on each band, and include a cross-check list for each band with 200 or more QSO's.

A summary sheet showing the scoring and the usual signed declaration that all rules have been observed is also requested.

All entries must be postmarked no later than December 15th and go to: Central Radio Club, P.O. Box 69, 113 27 PRAHA 1, Czechoslovakia.

CQ WW DX CW Contest

0000Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun., Nov. 28-29

Just a reminder, as if you needed one, that the CW section of our WW DX Contest is coming up the last weekend of this month. The phone section of course is past history. Complete rules were published in the September issue. There are no changes from those used in previous years, as they are well established worldwide. The contest trophies list has been updated and well covered in the rules.

All logs, both Phone and CW, must be sent to the *CQ* office: *CQ* World-Wide DX Contest, 76 North Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA.

Deadline for logs for the Phone section is December 1st, and January 15th for the CW section coming up. Be sure to indicate Phone or CW on your envelope. This will avoid your log from being entered in the wrong section.

ARRL 160 Meter CW Contest

2200Z Fri. to 1600Z Sun, Dec. 4-6

This is the 18th year for this "Top Band" activity. Exchange is between US stateside, VE, and DX stations. DX to DX not permitted for contest credit.

Classes: Single operator, and multi-operator single transmitter.

Exchange: RST and ARRL section for W/VE. RST only for DX stations; ITU Region for maritime and aeronautical mobiles.

Scoring: Contacts between stations in ARRL sections count 2 points, with DX stations 5 points.

Multiplier: Determined by number of ARRL sections plus VE8/VY1 (maximum of 74) and DX countries worked (for W/VE). (DX use ARRL sections only.)

Final Score: Total QSO points times the ARRL section and DX country multiplier.

Awards: Certificates to the top-scoring single operator station in each ARRL section and DXCC country. And to top-scoring multi-operator station in each ARRL Division and continent.

The ARRL 160 band plan requires that the 1830 to 1850 segment of the band be used for intercontinental QSOs only.

Indicate the multiplier in a separate column only the first time is it worked. Entries with 200 or more QSOs are required to include a dupe sheet. Official log forms are recommendced and are available from the ARRL. A large SASE and 39¢ postage or 2 IRCs will get you a supply for more than 300 contacts.

Mailing deadline for logs is January 6th to: ARRL Communications Dept., 160 Contest, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

TOPS Activity Contest 3.5 MHz CW

1800Z Sat. ot 1800Z Sun., Dec. 5-6

TOPS is an international club for CW enthusiasts founded in Great Britain in 1946. Their objective is to encourage CW operation on the top bands.

Classes: Single operator, multi-operator, and QRP (5 watts or less input).

Single operator stations must take one break of 7 hours during the contest period; multi-operators can operate the full 24 hours.

Exchange: RST plus a three-figure QSO number starting with 001. TOPS members will also include their membership number.

Scoring: QSO's within own country, 1 point, in own continent 2 points, with other continents 6 points. Work a TOPS member and get 2 bonus points (members get 3 points).

Each call area in W, Ve, VK, PY, U, and JA will count as a separate country for scoring. The multiplier is determined by prefixes worked (same as *CQ* WPX Contest).

Final Score: Total QSO points times the total number of prefixes worked.

Frequencies: Operation will be between 3500-3585 MHz, with the lowest 12 kHz reserved for out-of-continent DX contacts only. (When sending CQ send TAC, not Test).

Awards: At least 15 certificates will be awarded based on the top scores in each class.

Logs must be received no later than January 31st and go to: Bertil Arting, SM3VE, Bergesvegen 26, S-823 00 Kilafors, Sweden.

Telco. Pioneers QSO Party

1900Z Sat. to 0500Z Mon., Dec. 5–7

This is the 23rd annual QSO party of the Telephone Pioneers of America, and the 10th year it is sponsored by the John D. Burlie Chapter #89.

Members may be worked on each band and each mode if they are in different chapters, but only one contact is permitted between stations in the same chapter.

Exchange: QSO number and chapter number.

Scoring: One point per QSO on each band and each mode, and one multiplier for each different chapter worked. There are 115 TPA and 15 USTPA chapters.

Frequencies: A wide selection of frequencies may be used by all classes on all bands, 1.8-28 MHz and the UHF bands. A detailed breakdown is available from W8TB.

It is suggested that members who have not received this announcement from their chapters write to Ted Phelps for additional detailed information.

Awards: There is a wide selection of certificates for Life Members, Active Members, and Pioneers. Chapters in Canada have an awards program, and also the Burlie Chapter #89 is offering awards.

It is suggested that members who have not received this announcement from their chapters write to Ted Phelps for additional detailed information.

Mailing deadline for all entries is January 15th to: Ted Phelps, W8TP, c/o John D. Burlie Chapter #89, Telephone Pioneers of America, 6200 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43213.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

0000Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun., Dec. 12–13

This is the 15th annual 10 Meter Contest organized by the ARRL.

It's a worldwide activity in which DX stations are permitted to work other DX stations. You are not limited to working W/K's and VE's only.

The same station may be worked once on phone and again on CW; no cross-mode, however. A maximum of 36 hours operating time is permitted out of the 48-hour contest period for all stations.

Categories: Single operator, mixed mode, phone only or CW only. Multi-operator mixed mode only.

Exchange: W/VE stations (including KH6 and KL7) send RS(T) and state or province. DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc.) send RS(T) and QSO number starting with 001. Maritime mobiles send RS(T) and ITU region. Novice and Tech. stations must identify /N or /T.

Scoring: Phone QSOs are worth 2 points, CW 4 points, and Novice 8 points.

Multiplier: Fifty U.S. states, VE call areas, DX countries, and ITU regions, counted separately on phone and CW.

Final Score: Total QSO points times the state, province, DX country, and ITU region multiplier.

Awards: Certificates to the top single operator in each category for each ARRL section and DX country, and to the top multi-operator station in each ARRL division and each continent, and for Novices.

Indicate the multiplier only the first time it is worked. Dupe sheets are required for logs with 500 or more QSO's. The usual disqualification criteria will be observed. A large SASE will get you log and instruction forms. Mailing deadline for all entries is January 18th to: ARRL Communications Dept., 10 Meter Contest, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

ARCI QRP "Homebrew" CW Sprint

2000Z to 2400Z Sunday, December 13

Like the Summer Sprint this is also a shorty, only 4 hours. The emphasis is on the use of homebrew equipment and like the previous Sprint rules are lengthy and complicated. Following is a basic summary, but again I advise you to get a detailed copy from KA5NLY.

Classes: Single operator, single and all band only.

Exchange: RST and state, province, or country. ARCI members will include their membership number, non-members their output power. Call must be followed with "HB" or "C" indicating equipment used.

Scoring: Contacts with members 5 points. Non-members 2 points. If on a different continent 4 points. Add 5 more points if station worked is also using homebrew equipment.

Multiplier: Sum of different states, VE provinces, and countries worked on each band.

Power Multiplier: 4 to 5 watts output × 2, 3 to 4 watts output × 4, 2 to 3 watts output × 6, 1 to 2 watts output × 8, less than 1 watt × 10. Over 5 watts is a check log. Output based on ½ of input power.

Power Supply Multiplier: Battery supply × 1.5, Solar/natural × 2.

"HB" Bonus: 200 if transmitter is homebrew, 300 if receiver, 500 if transceiver used on each band.

Final Score: Total QSO points × state, province, country, × power multiplier, × power supply multiplier + "HB" Bonus.

Frequencies: 1810, 3560, 3710, 7040, 7110, 14060, 21060, 21110, 28060, 28110, 50060 kHz.

Awards: Certificates to the top 5 all band and single band overall winners and to the top scores in each state, province, and country with 2 or more entries.

Include a summary sheet showing the scoring and other essential information. Sample log forms are available as is a copy of the results. Include a large SASE for each.

Mailing deadline is January 12th to: Eugene Smith, KA5NLY, Pentagon P.O. Box 46599, Washington, DC 20050-6599.

Canada Day Contest

0000 to 2400Z Sunday, December 27

Sponsored by the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation, this contest is open to all amateurs. Everyone works everyone on both sides of the border. Rules have been restructured to quote, "make for a better contest."

Classes: Single operator—All Band, CW, SSB, and both modes. Single band, CW/SSB. Multi-operator—Single transmitter and multi-transmitter, all band only.

Exchange: Name, RS(T), QSO no., province, territory, state, or country. Multi-multi stations use separate QSO no. for each band.

Scoring: 10 points for each Canadian contact, 4 points for contacts with stations outside of Canada, and 20 points can be claimed for working each official station using the VCA or TCA suffix.

Multiplier: Each Canadian province/territory worked on each band and mode.

Frequencies: 1825/75, 3525/3775, 7075/70/155, 14025/150, 21025/250, 28025/500, 50040/125 kHz.

Awards: Certificates to winning stations in each class, in each province/territory, DX country, and each US call area. Trophies for top scorers, all band, CW, SSB, and both modes. Single band 14 and 7 MHz. And multi-single and multi-multi stations.

Include a summary sheet with your entry showing the scoring, etc., and the usual signed declaration that all rules and regulations have been observed.

Mailing deadline is Jan. 30th to: CARF Contest, Att: John Clarke, VE1CCM, 16 Keefe Ave., Sydney, Nova Scotia, B1R 2C7 Canada.

U.B.A. SWL Competition

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1988

We often hear from SWL's complaining that very little coverage is given to their hobby. This one should keep them busy for the whole of 1988.

There are five categories: Single operator, phone, CW and RTTY, SSTV, and all modes for clubs and multi-operator.

Use all 6 bands, 1.8–28 MHz.

There will be certificates and trophies for winners in all categories and areas.

The U.B.A. suggests that you use their special log forms. Your requests for more detailed information and log forms should be directed to the Contest Manager, Marc Domen. Include 3 IRC's if in Europe, 4 IRC's for all other areas.

Contest Manager: Marc Domen, ONL 6945, Gebr. Blommestraat 14, Borgerhout, B-2200 Antwerpen, Belgium.

"73" Magazine World SSB Championship Contests

A series of six single band contests organized by *73 Magazine* will determine the single band SSB World Champion on each band, 10 through 160 meters.

Rules are the same for each one, and since they are all scheduled for the month of January, we will treat them as a single entry.

2nd annual **10 Meters** (48 hours)
0000Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun., Jan. 2–3
4th annual **15 Meters** (24 hours)
0000Z to 2400Z Sat., Jan. 9
4th annual **20 Meters** (24 hours)
0000Z to 2400Z Sun., Jan. 10
9th annual **160 Meters** (48 hours)
0000Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun., Jan. 16–17
7th annual **40 Meters** (24 hours)
0000Z to 2400Z Sat., Jan. 23
7th annual **75 Meters** (24 hours)
0000Z to 2400Z Sun., Jan. 24

Classes: Both single and multi-operator, single transmitter. Stations may operate the full contest period regardless of their classification.

Special 10 meter: Novice single operator, limited to 250 watts PEP, 28.3 to 28.5 MHz, can compete with each other.

Exchange: RS report and state, province, or territory for the 48 US states and 13 Canadian areas. RS and country for DX stations, including Alaska and Hawaii. Ten meter US Novice, RS and state, and consecutive QSO number.

Points: Contacts within own continent, 5 points. Outside own continent, 10 points. Five Bonus points for each US Novice contact in the 10 meter contest. Novice stations are easily identified as they are the only ones giving out contact numbers.

Multiplier: One for each US state, Canadian area, and DXCC country worked (excluding the US and Canada).

Final Score: Total QSO points times the multiplier points.

Awards: A plaque to the World Champion winner on each band (minimum of 500 contacts). Certificates in each class in each US state, Canadian area, and DXCC country (minimum of 200 contacts).

Disqualification: Taking credit for duplicate contacts in excess of 3% of the total made can mean disqualification. There is a stiff penalty of 100 QSO points for each duplicate contact for which credit has been claimed, and failure to comply with rules and regulations and unsportsmanlike conduct.

A summary sheet showing the scoring and other essential information and a dupe sheet for entries with 300 or more contacts is required.

It is suggested that you send a large SASE to the Contest Chairman, Bill Gosney, KE7C, 2665 N. Busby Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 for official forms.

Mail separate entries to the individual directors listed below postmarked *no later* than February 18, 1988.

10, 15, and 160 Meters—Russ Blair, KE7KF, 2113 East 10095 South, Sandy, UT 84092.

20 and 75 Meters—Ron Johnson, WE7H, 68 South 300 West, Brigham City, UT 84302.

40 Meters—Dennis Younker, NE6I, 43261 6th Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535.

(The National CW and SSB Championship will be held each year on Labor Day weekend.)

Over the past 30 or more years we have announced more competitive amateur radio activities than any other publication. Rules have progressively improved, and now all major contests have a clause that clearly spells out reasons for disqualification. These include taking credit for excessive duplicate contacts, not complying with rules and regulations, using excessive power, unsportsmanlike conduct, etc. Probably the most abused but easiest to detect is "taking credit for duplicate contacts." Rechecking your log before submitting it should solve that problem. Now that computers are used to do the checking, your chances of beating the system are slim (although we did a pretty good job in the old days when computers were unheard of).

Rules and regulations. This is very seldom enforced obviously due to the fact that time is not taken to check for violations.

Using excessive power. This is a rather difficult one to check. Back in the old days the FCC was known to send out field units to check suspected stations operating in a contest. That's seldom done in this day and age. They don't have the time or manpower. It's the so-called honor system now, and it has been quoted that there is no honor in love, war, and DX contesting.

Unsportsmanlike conduct. Who is going to interpret or judge whether or not the conduct of an operator meets acceptable standards? Unlike other sporting events where the judge is on the scene and can make a visual decision, that is not possible in radiosporting.

Of late, my contest operating has been limited in time and not competitive. However, I have taken time to observe what is going on, and there have been many instances of questionable operating, even though some of it could be excused in the heat of competition.

As a final analysis, the disqualification clause in radio contesting may look very impressive in print, but in most cases it is not very practical to enforce.

That should do it for this time. Any comments?

It's hard to believe that this is being written for the December issue and that holiday greetings are in order. Have a most pleasant Holiday Season and best wishes for the New Year.

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QSL DIRECT?? Use stamps instead of expensive IRC's and save on your postage costs. List of countries available sent for large SASE. DXers Postal Service, PO Box 8851, Trenton, NJ 08650. WP2ADC, Call 24 Hrs. (609) 586-0850

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SWL RECEIVERS: Sony ICF-2010 PLL tuning, scan, AM, FM, AIR bands, 100 kHz to 30 MHz, new sealed boxes, $300. SWL Nippon 9 band world receiver MR996, new, ship for $45.00. Ike, N3IK, (215) 681-5042

RACAL RECEIVER RA6790, with case. Sunair 1500W amplifier GSL-1900 Alpha. Need schematic/manual for Collins 32V3 transmitter. Richard Gresko, VE2DVI, (514) 227-5355

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BOBTAIL ANTENNAS, a 21 page book by SM4CAN with practical construction details, designs of SM4CAN 40/80 meter Botails, list of components. Send 12 IRCs or US $5 for your Air Mailed copy to: SM4CAN, Kent Svensson, Bruksgatan 188, S-69502 Laxa, Sweden.

1987 Callbokk supplement - available. $9 includes postage to VE/W. Foreign orders accepted at additional shipping charges. Inside-DX, 436 N Geneva St. Ithaca, NY 14850

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CONTEST FORMS FOR IRSA WRC, CQ WW, CQ WPX AND CAN-AM CONTESTS. Also application sheet and form kit for DXCA award. Each set includes summary sheet, multiplier check sheet, dupe sheets for Europe, VE/W and rest of the world, log sheets with 100 QSOs per page as described in RADIOSPORTING Dec.84. Send business size SAE and $1 per set to: IRSA, Box 282, Pine Brook, NJ 07058

Rockford, IL Hamfest and Computer Fair and Ill state ARRL Convention. Nov. 15 at Forest Hills Lodge, 9900 Forest Hills Rd, Rockford, IL 61111 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Dealers, flea market, ARRL speakers, VEC exams. Talk in: 146.01/.61 Rockford Hamfest, 6514 Swansdown Dr, Rockford, IL 61111

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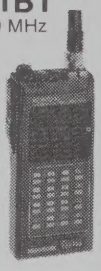

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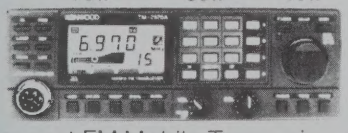

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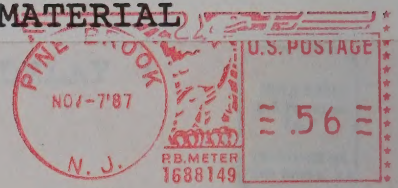

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We welcome articles and contributions from our readers. It is your publication. Material can be submitted on diskettes, via MODEM or on paper.

DXCA

DX CENTURION AWARD

GENERAL RULES

The DXCA program is sponsored by the International Radiosport Association and RADIOSPORTING magazine for all licensed radio amateurs and short wave listeners all over the world.

All contacts must be made from the same country. Maritime, aeronautical and land mobile stations may operate from anywhere in the world.

Only contacts made after January 1, 1986 are valid for the basic award.

Awards for club stations will be issued to the club and not to an individual operator.

All amateur bands for which an applicant holds a valid license may be used, including new WARC bands.

QSL cards for the awards must be in the possession of the applicant. The application for the award must be certified by two licensed amateurs with a statement that the list of contacts and QSL cards agree. Any altering or forging will result in disqualification. The IRSA Awards Committee has the right to request the QSL cards for verification.

The ARRL DXCC countries list criteria will be used in determining what constitutes a "country." A particular operation or DXpedition does not have to be recognized by the ARRL in order to count for DXCA (i.e. Burma). As long as there is a reasonable proof that the operation took place as claimed, it will be recognized. If it is found in the future that certain operations were not legitimate, the credit for that operation will be removed from all applications claiming the operation in question.

All officially allowed modes of communication may be used: CW, SSB, AM, FM, RTTY, Packet, SSTV and Mixed mode. Also separate categories will be recognized for satellite contacts, QRP, QRPP and Mobile stations. All contacts must be two way, using the same mode, except for the mixed mode. A valid contact must consist of a call sign and signal report exchange.

All claimed contacts must be made by the operators themselves, without the help of a third party, i.e. list or net operation. Non interference with commercial services on shared bands, fair play and good sportsmanship are required of all DXCA holders and applicants. In the event of specific objections relative to continued poor operating ethics, an individual may be disqualified from the DXCA by action of the DXCA Awards Committee.

The application must contain a station's callsign, name and address, type of award applied for and list of contacts. The list of contacts and any QSL cards in possession must include: callsign, signal report received, band, date, time GMT and two way mode.

Callsigns of all certificate holders will be published in RADIOSPORTING magazine and a DXCA Honor Roll will be published twice a year.

The first twenty winners of monoband and multi band awards will receive a free one year subscription to RADIOSPORTING Magazine.

The decisions of the IRSA Awards Committee are final.

SINGLE BAND DXCA

Single band DX Century Award is issued for working or hearing a minimum of 100 countries on one band. Endorsement stickers are issued in increments of 20 countries up to 240, increments of 10 up to 300 and increments of 5 above 300 countries.

Contacts made on all amateur bands (1.8, 3.5, 7, 10, 14, 18, 21, 24, 28 MHz and all VHF/UHF bands), as permitted by the license in the country of the applicant, are eligible for award. All contacts must be made on one band. No crossband contacts are allowed.

The basic award will be issued for a minimum of 100 countries confirmed on one band. A numbered endorsement stickers will be issued for each mode (CW, SSB, AM, FM, RTTY, Packet, SSTV and Mixed) and category (satellite contacts, QRP, QRPP and Mobile stations).

The holders of Single Band DXCA are allowed to use the abbreviation signifying the type of award and country total on their QSL cards.

Example: "1.8 DXCA" or "1.8CW DXCA 124/265" which means: Monoband 1.8 MHz, all CW mode, DXCA, 124 countries confirmed since Jan. 1, 1986/ number of countries worked.

MULTI BAND DXCA

6B DXCA, 7B DXCA, etc. awards will be issued for confirmations from a minimum of 100 countries on each of at least 6 bands. A separate awards will be issued for working 100 countries on 7, 8, or more bands.

Also a cumulative total will be kept for an overall countries count similar to the monoband awards. I.e. 7B DXCA (856/1265), which signifies that station has confirmed a minimum of 100 countries on each of 7 bands and the total count is 856 countries since Jan. 1, 1986 and 1265 countries on 7 bands worked. A numbered stickers will be issued for each mode and category.

Stations having monoband DXCA need not submit the list of contacts already credited for monoband awards. It is sufficient to mention the certificate type and number, and only an additional list of contacts has to be submitted.

Stickers for increments of 100 countries will be issued from 600 to 2000, increments of 50, from 2000 and up.

The Honor Roll - listing of top contenders and latest changes in standings will be published in RADIOSPORTING magazine twice a year.

The fee for each award is US $5 or 10 IRCs, and each endorsement sticker is $2 or 4 IRCs. Engraved Honor Roll plaques will cost $25.

A set of application forms and countries list for DXCA awards are available from IRSA for SAE and 3 IRCs.

All applications to be sent to IRSA - DXCA, Box 282, Pine Brook, NJ, 07058, USA

Radiosporting

INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY MAGAZINE BY AND FOR ACTIVE RADIOAMATEURS

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